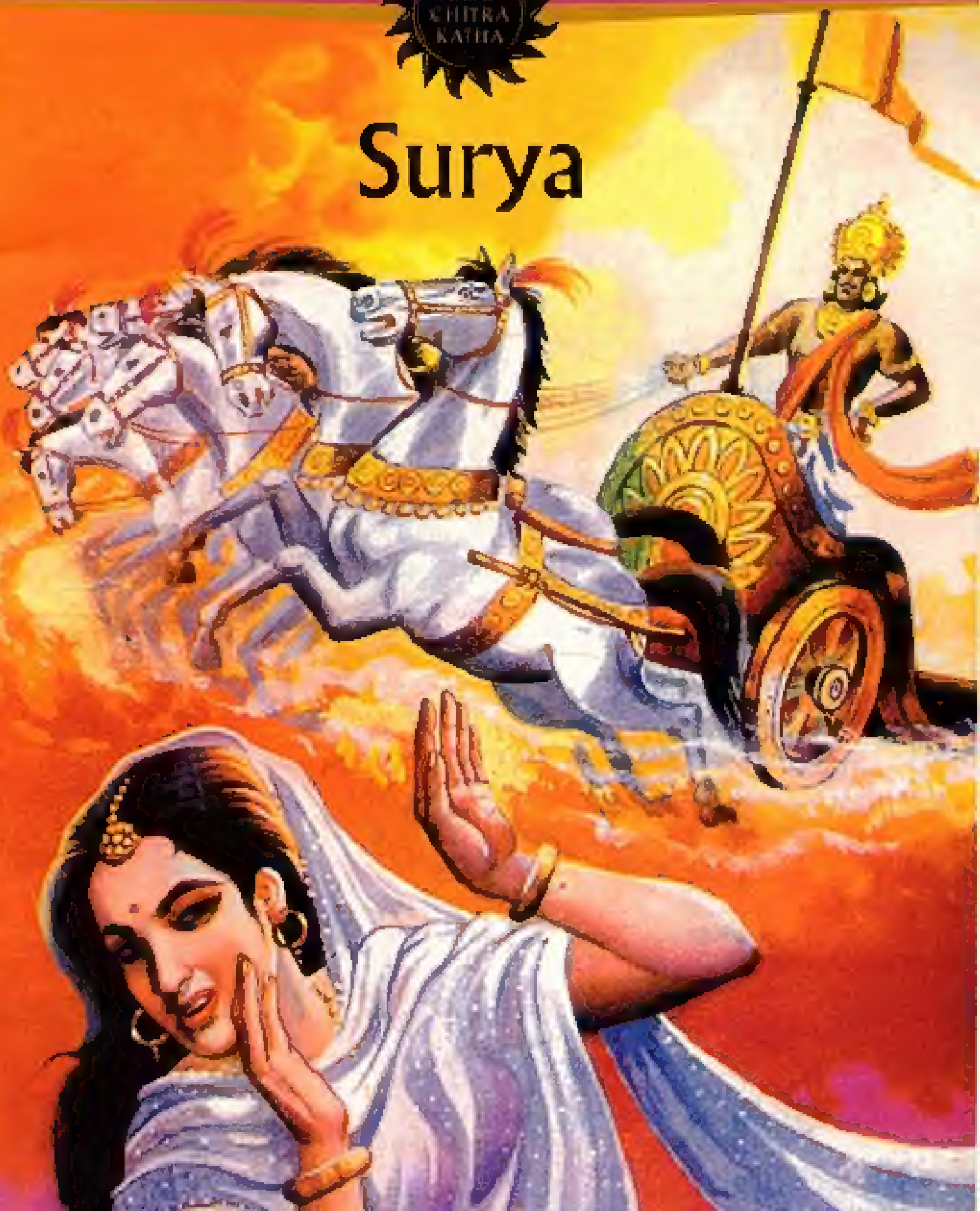


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Surya





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SURYA



VISHWAKARMA, THE COSMIC
ARCHITECT, HAD A
DAUGHTER CALLED
SANJNA.

THE CHILD PLAYED ALL DAY IN THE HOT SUN.

SURYA'S RAYS
HARDLY
SEEM TO
AFFECT
HER.



SHE CAME INTO
THE HOUSE ONLY
WHEN THE SUN
HAD SET.



SURYA SEEMS
TO FASCINATE
HER.

I HAVE
OBSERVED
THAT.



AS GANUNA GREW UP, HER LOVE FOR THE SPLENDOR OF THE SUN INCREASED.

I ENVY YOU, YOU WILL HAVE SURYA'S WARMTH ALL YOUR LIFE,



AS FOR ME, I SHALL HAVE TO GET MARRIED SOON AND...



BUT HER THOUGHTS WERE RUDELY INTERRUPTED.

AREN'T YOU COMING TO THE SWING?

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING SO DEEPLY ABOUT?

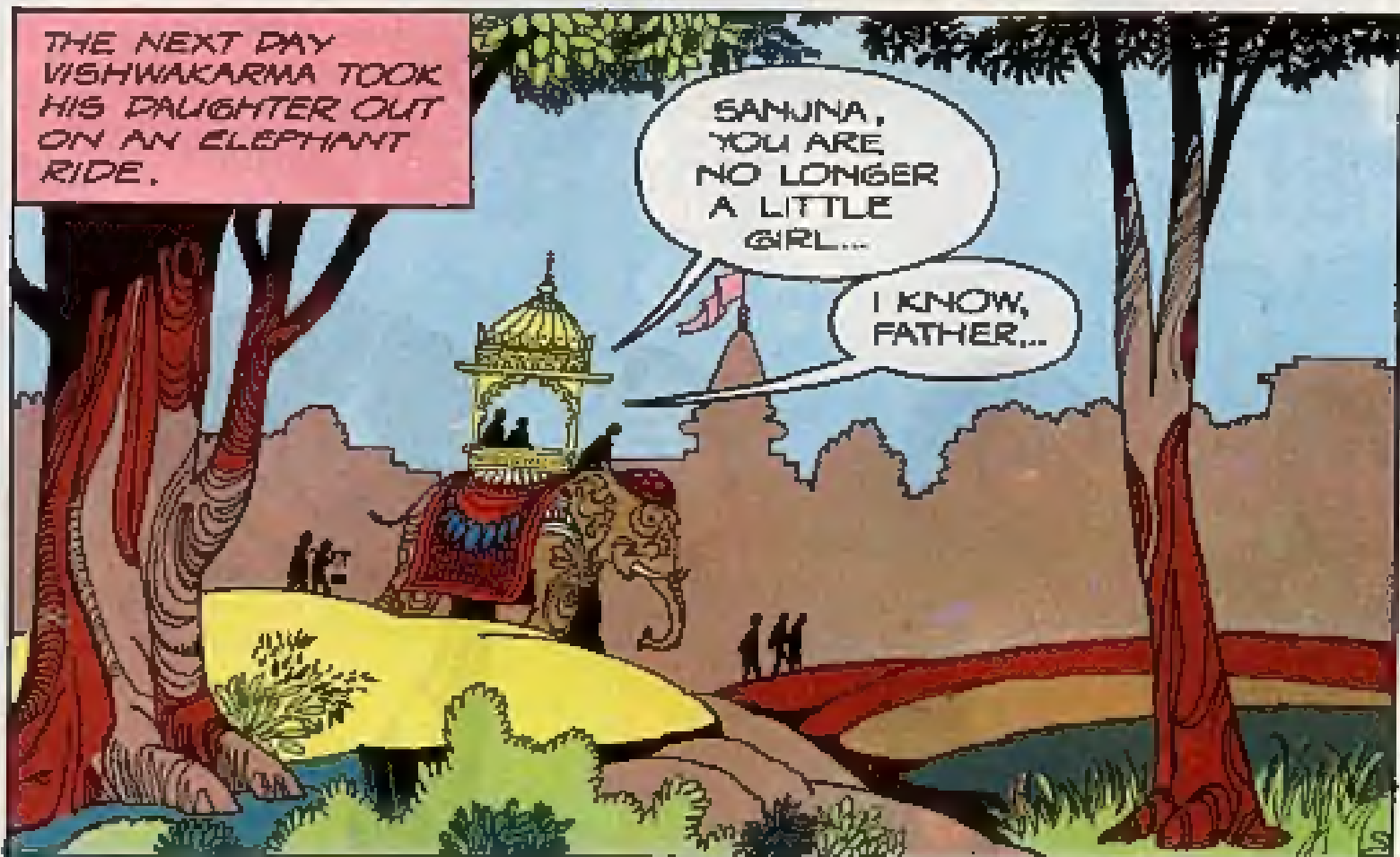
COME TELL US.

UH! UH! OH! NOTHING!



I WAS WONDERING HOW LONG I WOULD BE ABLE TO REVEL IN SURYA'S WARMTH.





FATHER!
LOOK! SURYA
THE MOST
GLORIOUS
OF THE
CELESTIALS!

WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO HAVE
SURYA
FOR YOUR
HUSBAND?

FATHER!

VISHWAKARMA APPROACHED
SURYA WITH HIS DAUGHTER.

I SHALL BE ONLY TOO
GLAD TO WED YOUR
FAIR DAUGHTER.

BUT WHAT
DOES
SANJNA
SAY?

MY FATHER
HAS BROKEN
MY WILL.

VISHWAKARMA DREW
SAMUNA ASIDE.

THINK WELL.
ARE YOU SURE
YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO BEAR
HIS BRILLIANCE
IN ALL SEASONS?

I AM
SURE,
FATHER.



WHERE IS MOTHER?

SHE
AWAITS
YOU.



I SEEK
YOUR
BLESSINGS,
MOTHER.

MAY
YOU EVER
BE HAPPY.



THE DAY OF THE WEDDING SOON DAWNED.
AS THE BRIDE WAS BEING ADORNED -

LET ME DARKEN
YOUR EYES, YOU
WILL NEED
PROTECTION
FROM HIS
GLANCES.

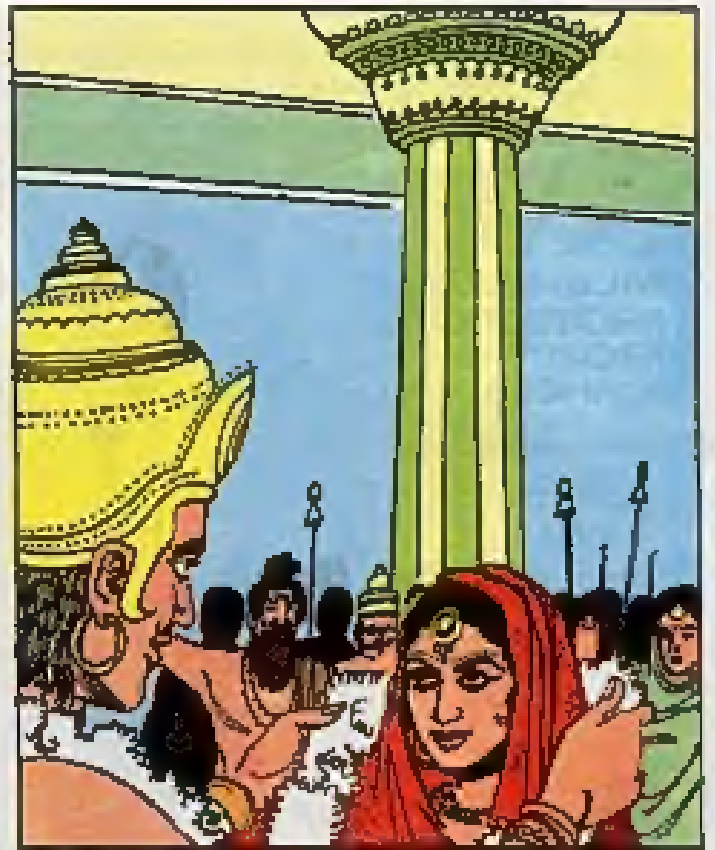
NEED
PROTECTION
FROM GURYA'S
GLANCES! ME?

GLARE, YOU
MEAN.

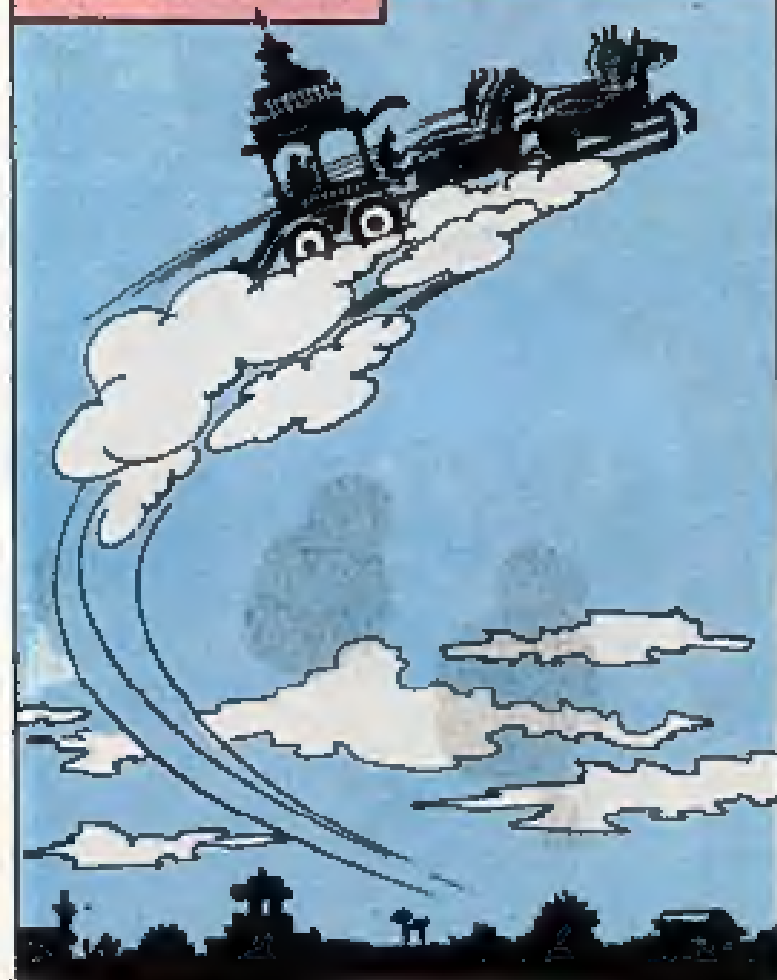


THE WEDDING TOOK PLACE WITH GREAT POMP.





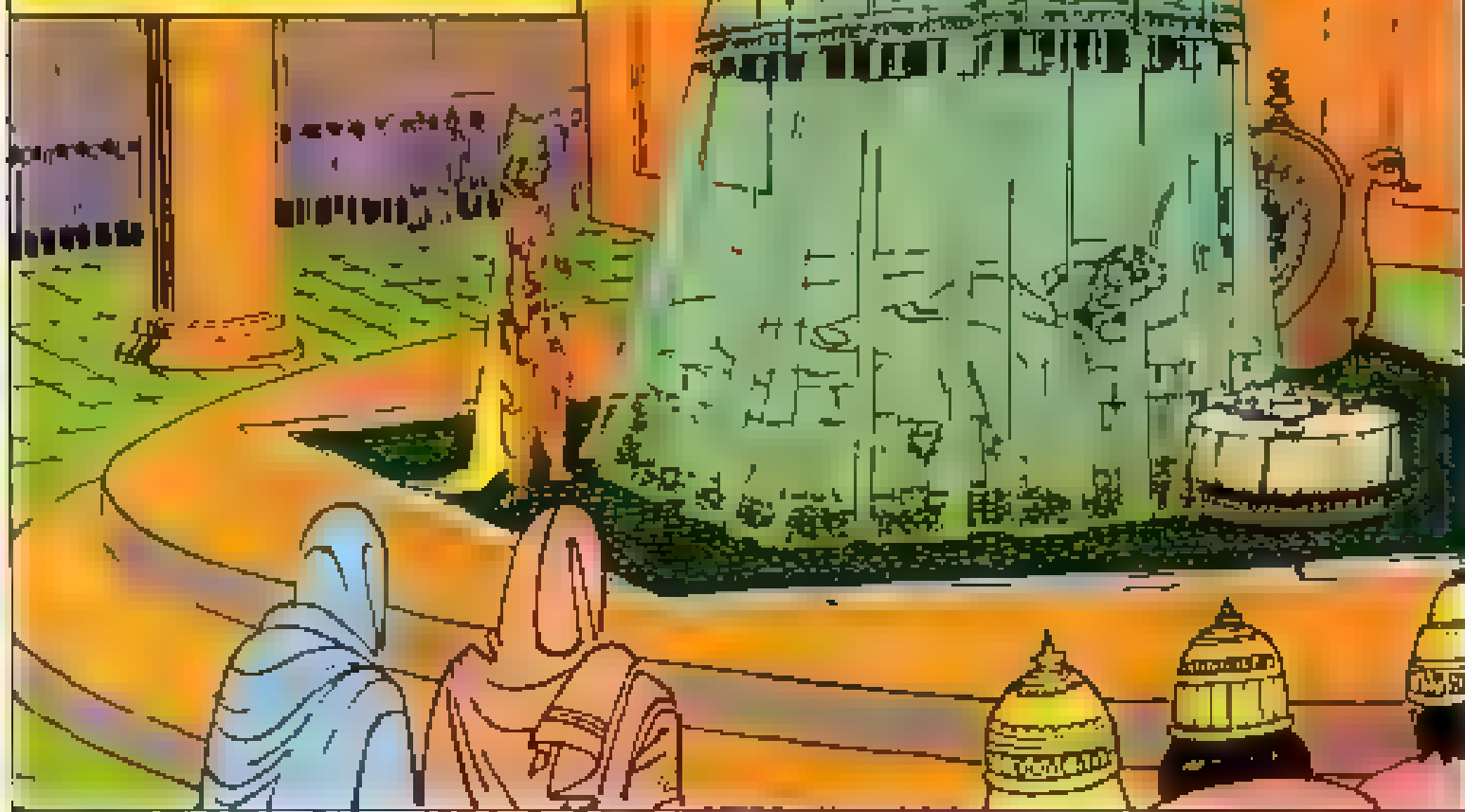
AFTER THE WEDDING SURYA
TOOK SANUNA TO HIS ABODE
IN THE SKIES.



SANUNA LOVED HER
NEW HOME AND
WAS VERY HAPPY.

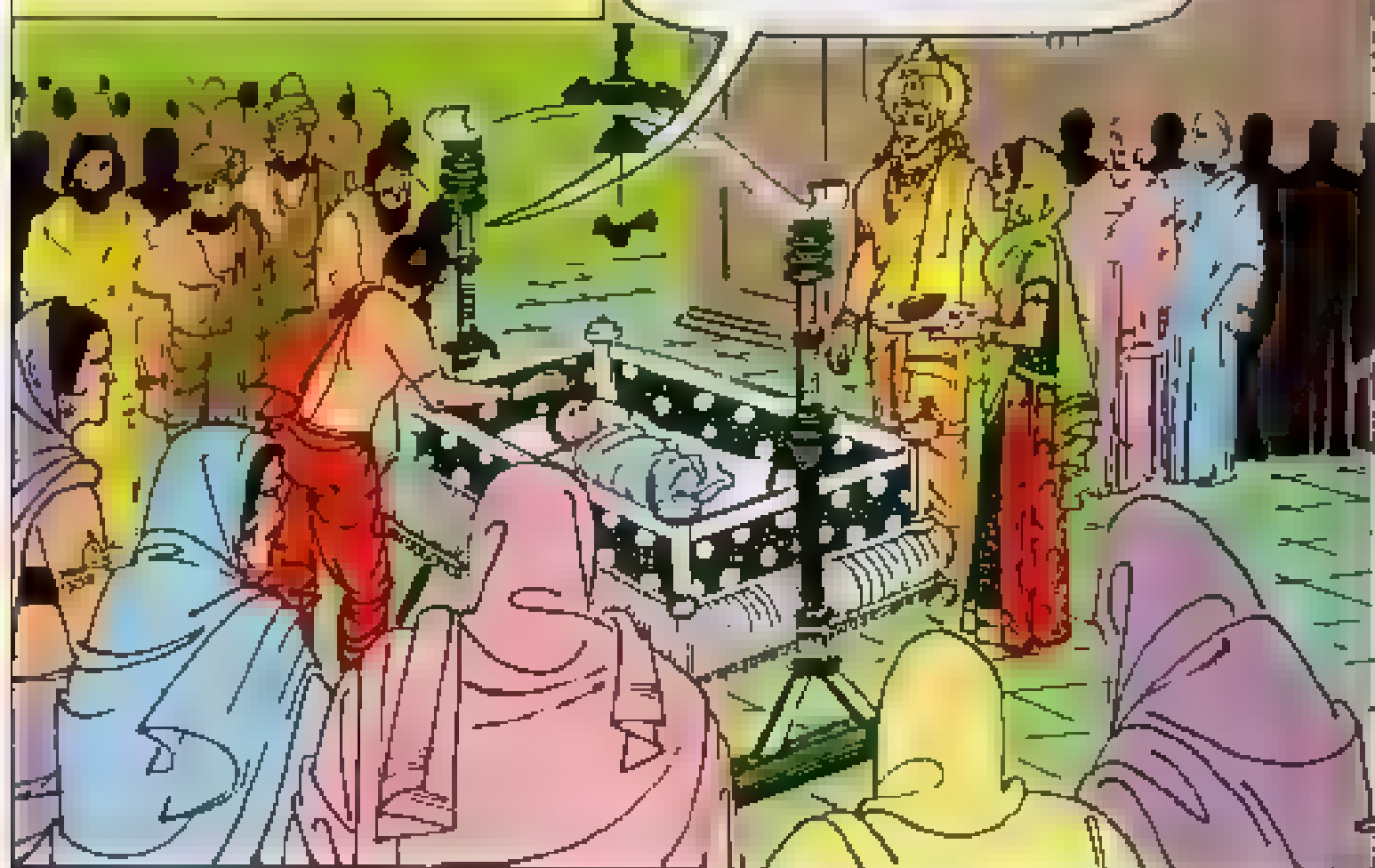


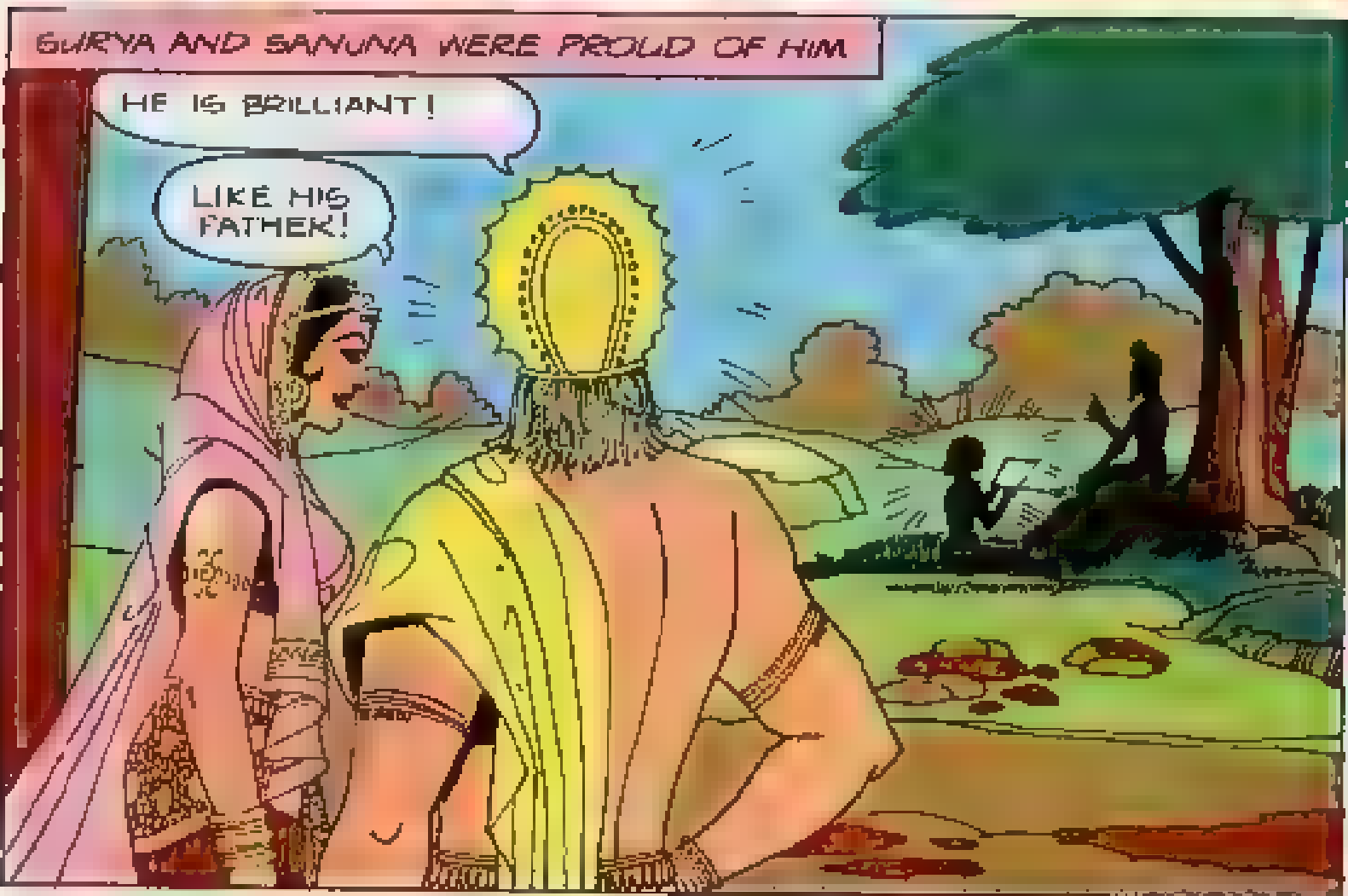
SOON A SON WAS BORN TO THEM
THEY CALLED HIM MANU



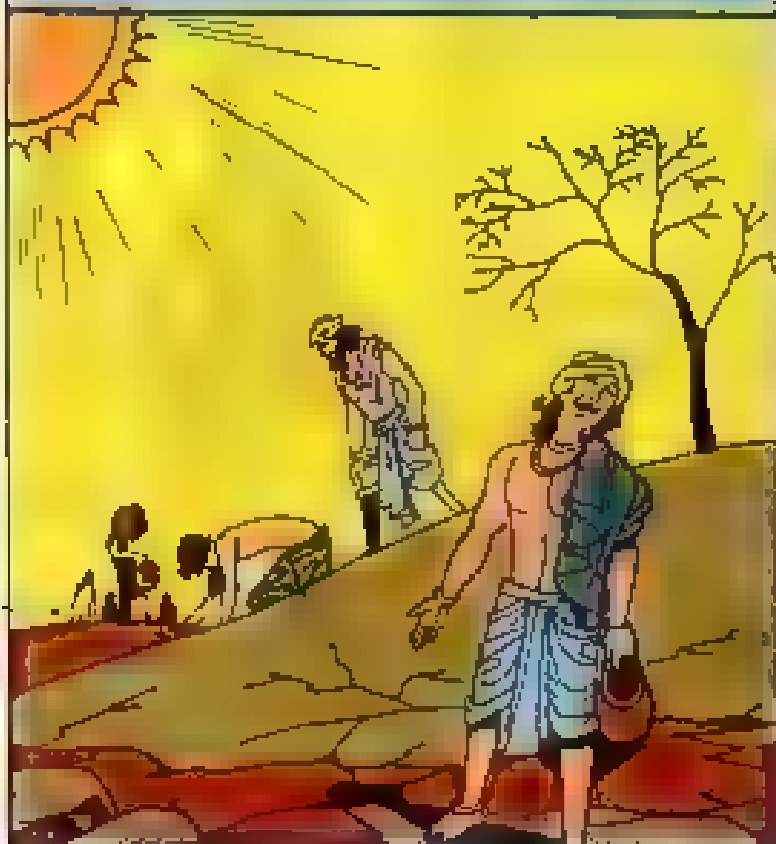
THE CELESTIAL SAGES CAME
TO BLESS THE BABY.

HE SHALL BE THE
WISEST AMONG THE WISE

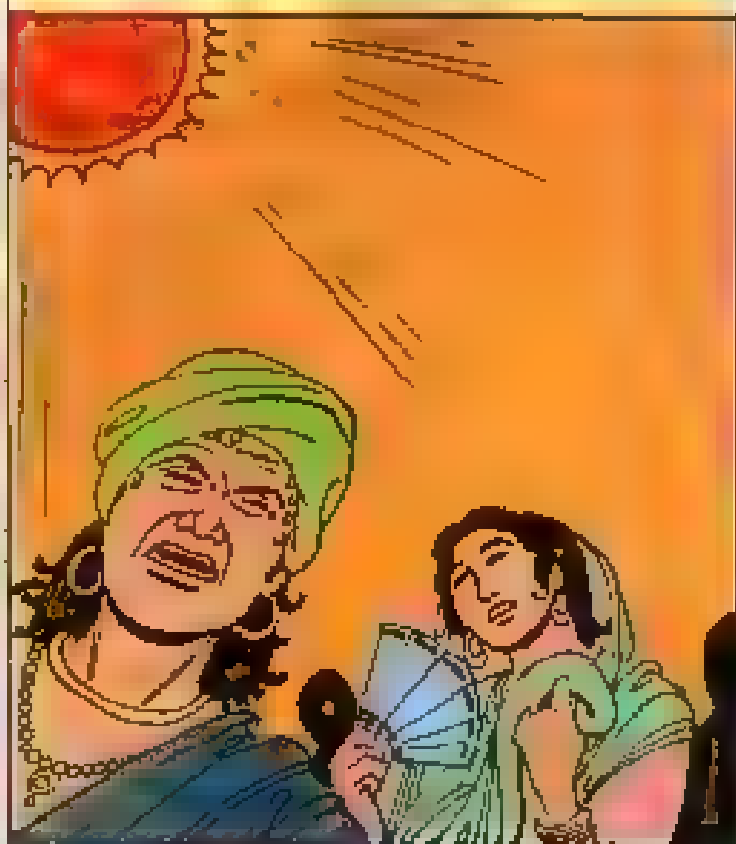




THEN SUDDENLY ONE SUMMER...



...SURYA'S RAYS BEAT DOWN...

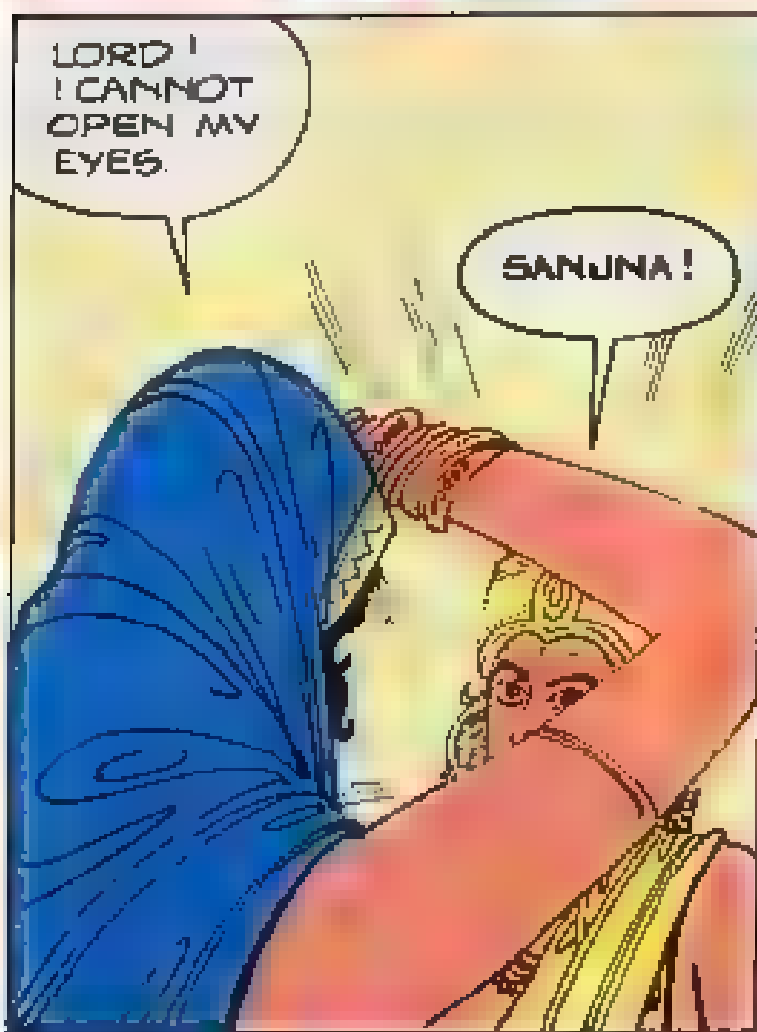
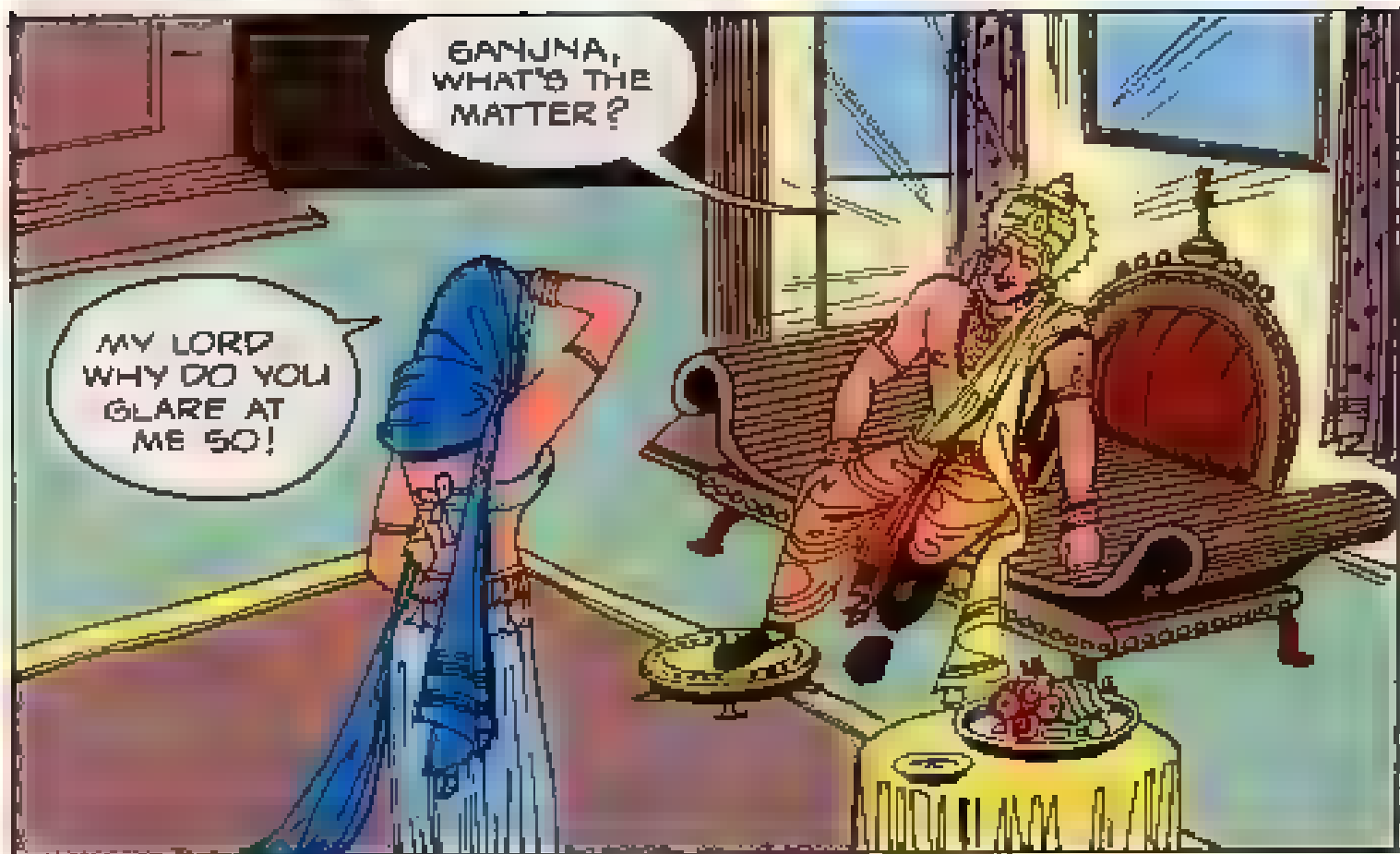


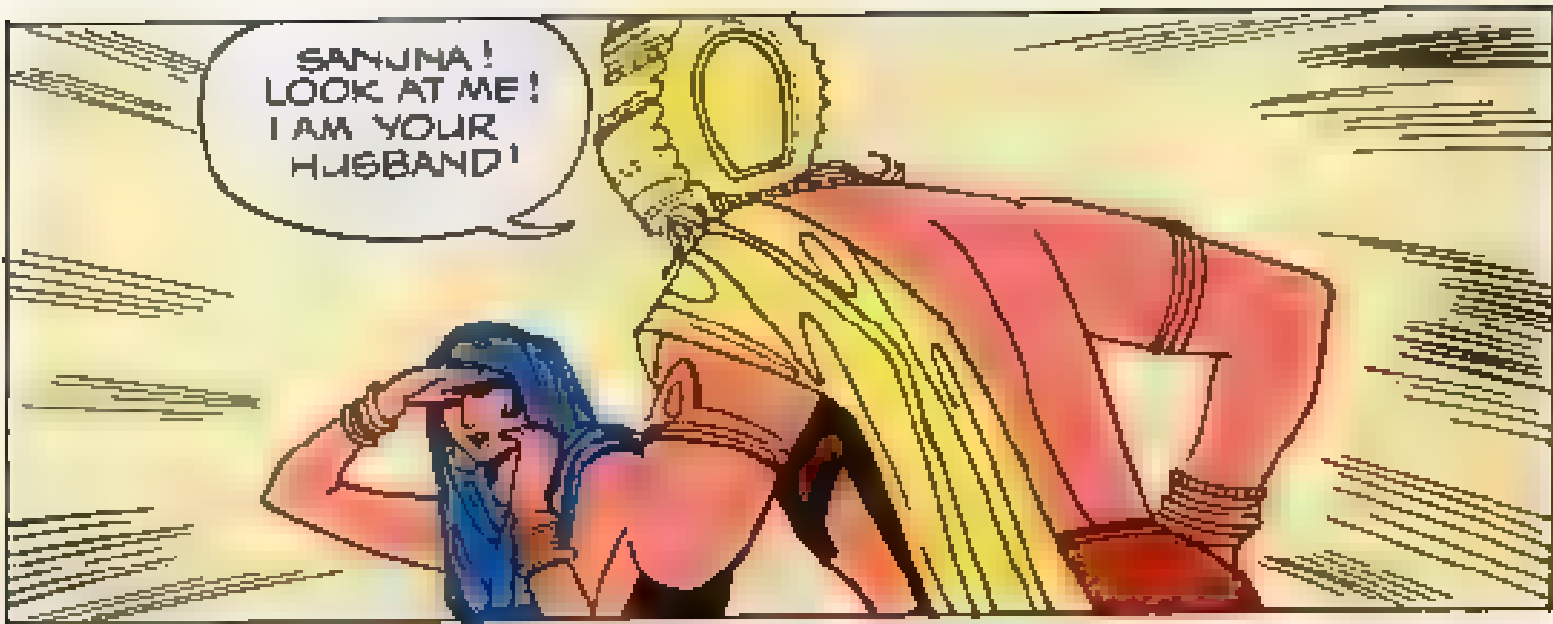
..INTENSE AND OPPRESSIVE.



HE WAS AT HIS ZENITH.





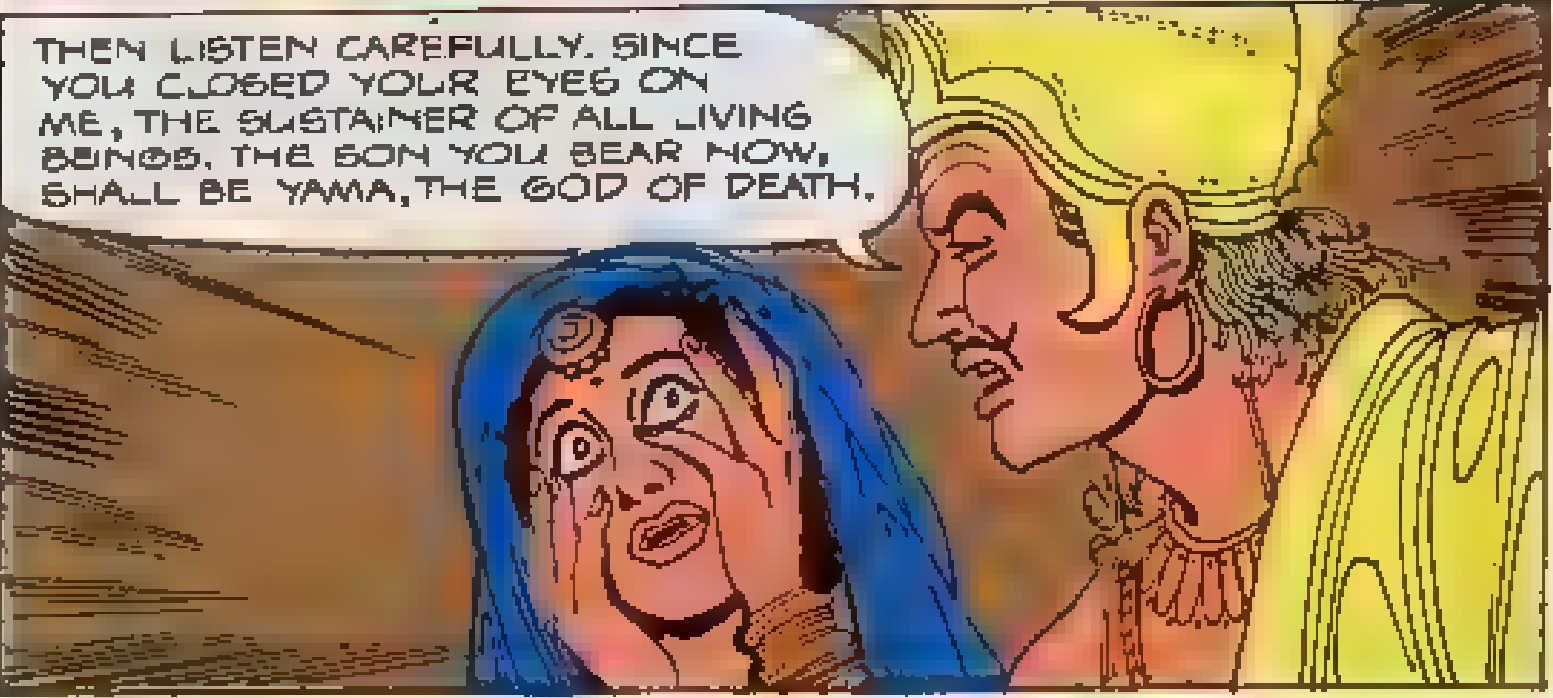


SANJANA!
LOOK AT ME!
I AM YOUR
HUSBAND!

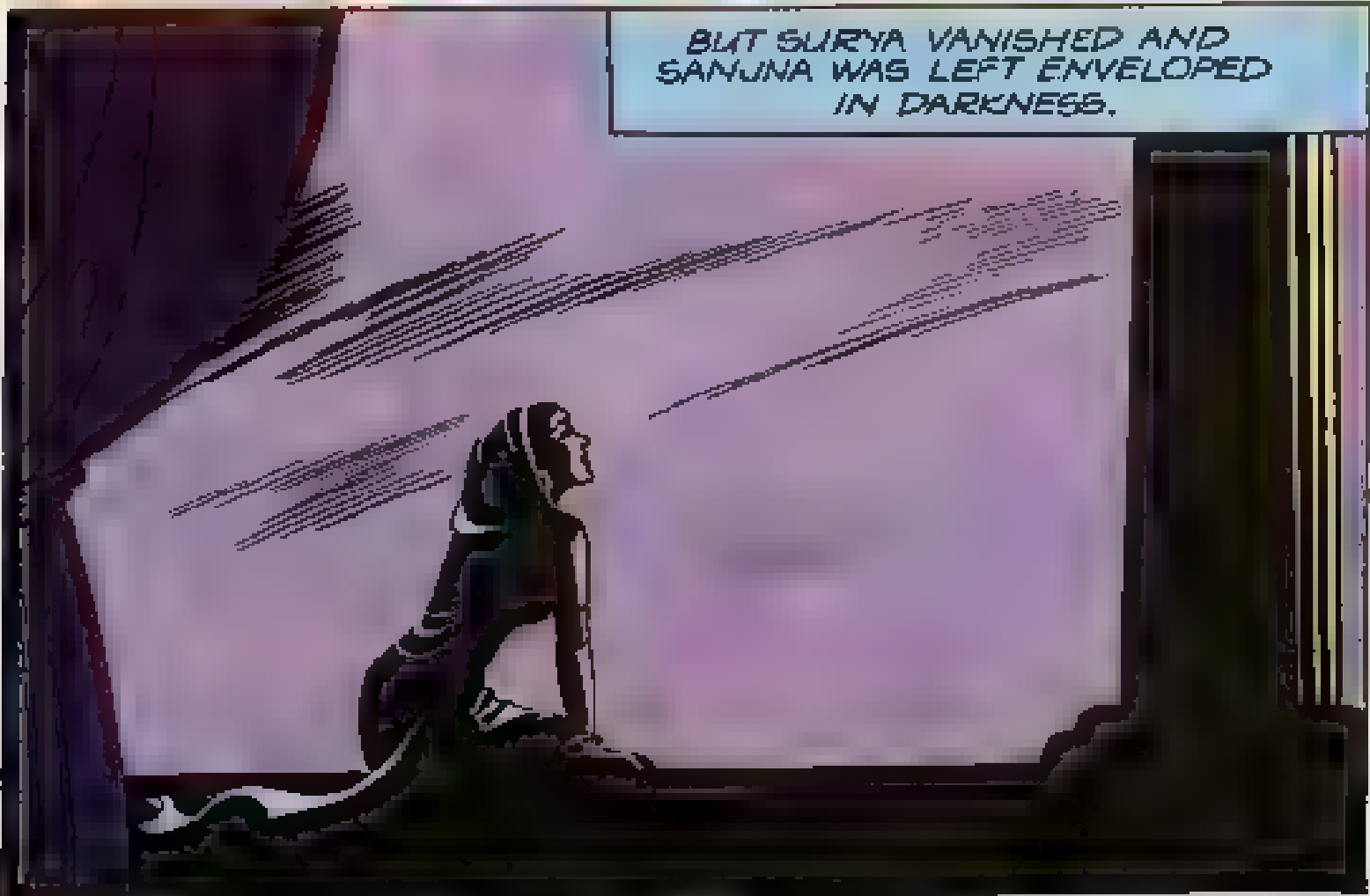


SANJANA! WILL YOU
REPEL ME?

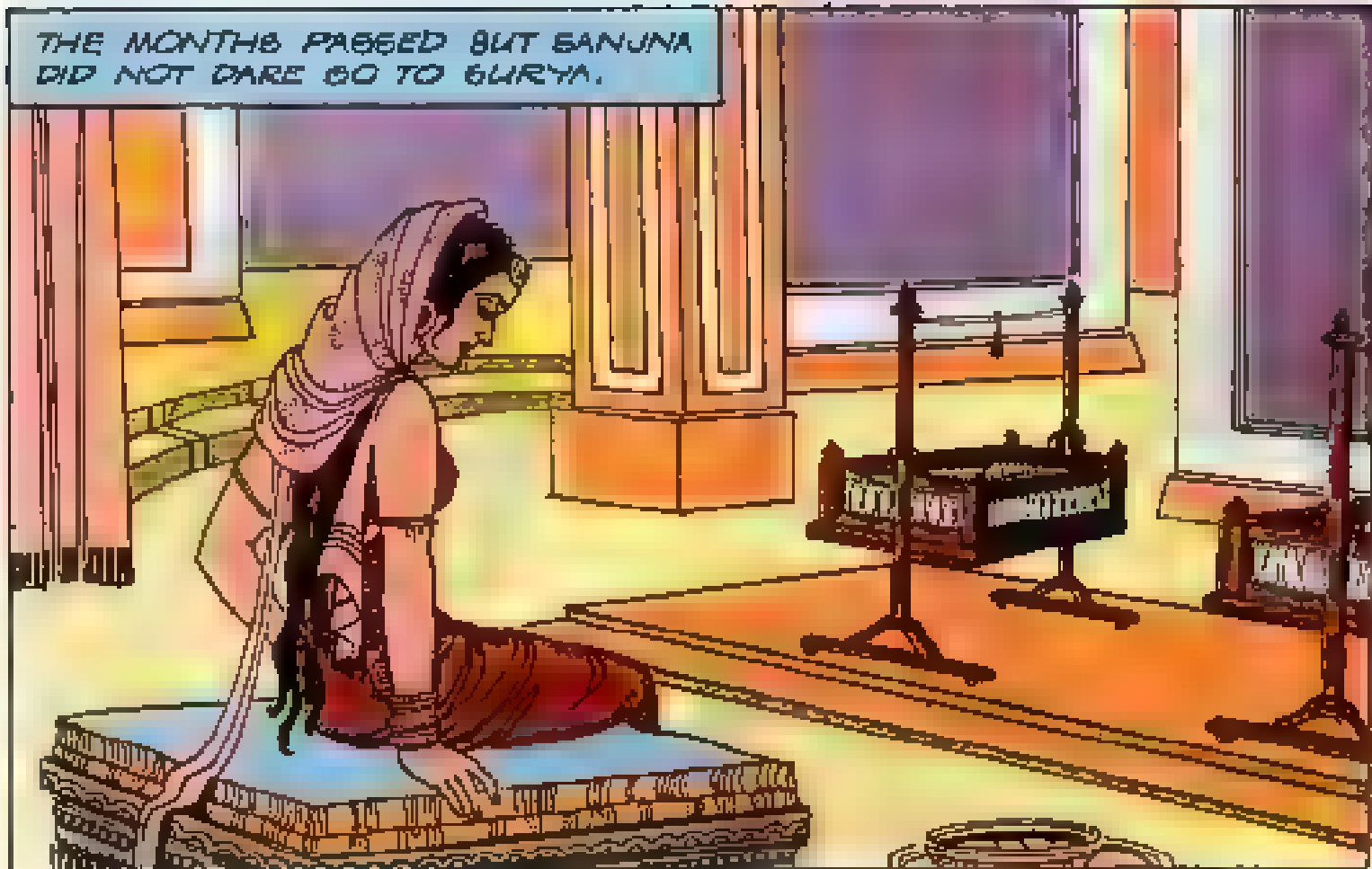
I AM SORRY,
MY LORD!



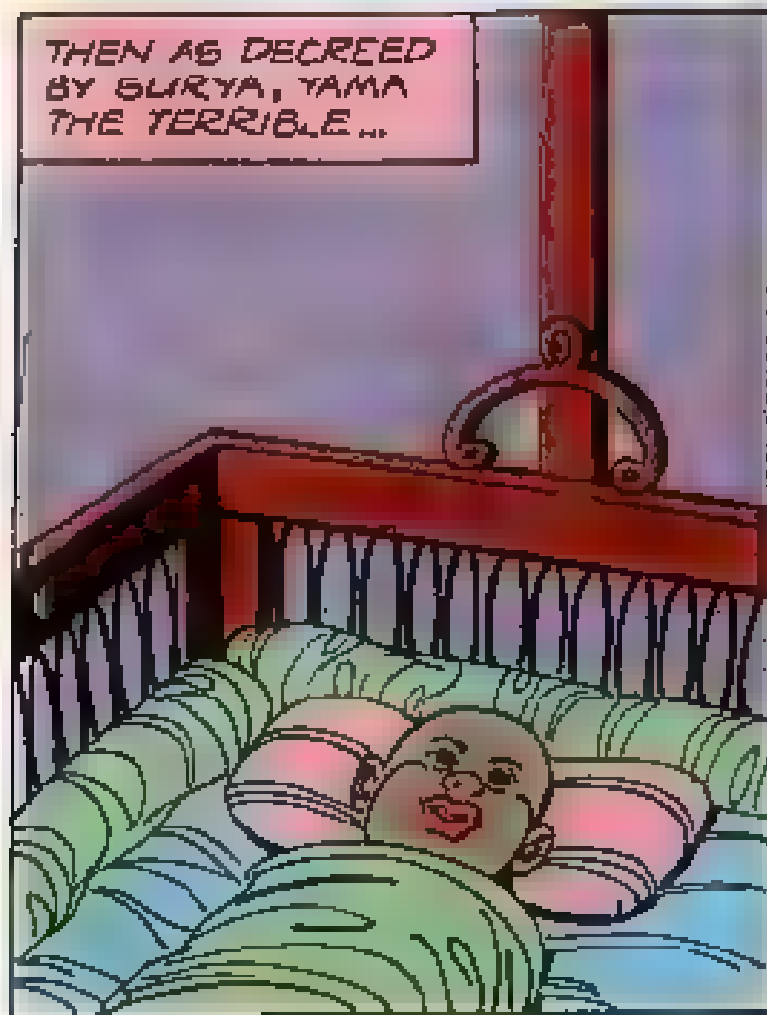
THEN LISTEN CAREFULLY. SINCE
YOU CLOSED YOUR EYES ON
ME, THE SUSTAINER OF ALL LIVING
BEINGS, THE SON YOU BEAR NOW,
SHALL BE YAMA, THE GOD OF DEATH.



THE MONTHS PASSED BUT SAMJNA
DID NOT DARE GO TO SURYA.

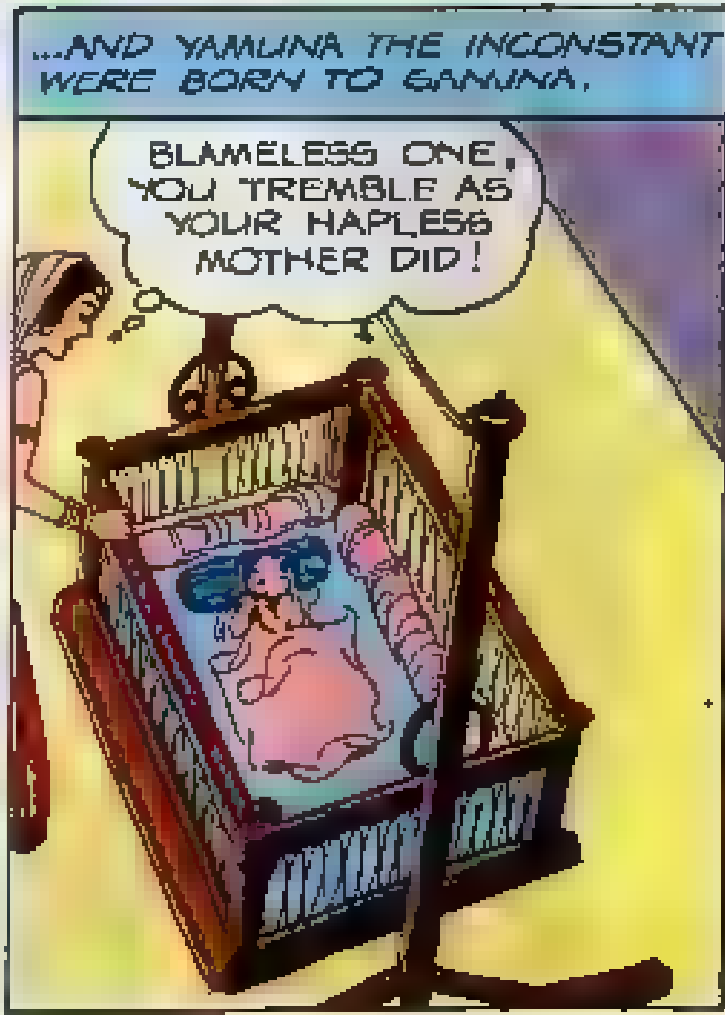


THEN AS DECREED
BY SURYA, YAMA
THE TERRIBLE...



...AND YAMUNA THE INCONSTANT
WERE BORN TO SAMJNA.

BLAMELESS ONE,
YOU TREMBLE AS
YOUR HAPLESS
MOTHER DID!



BUT BANUNA'S FEAR REMAINED.

WHAT SHALL I DO?
THE VERY THOUGHT
OF FACING HIM
FILLS MY HEART
WITH DREAD.

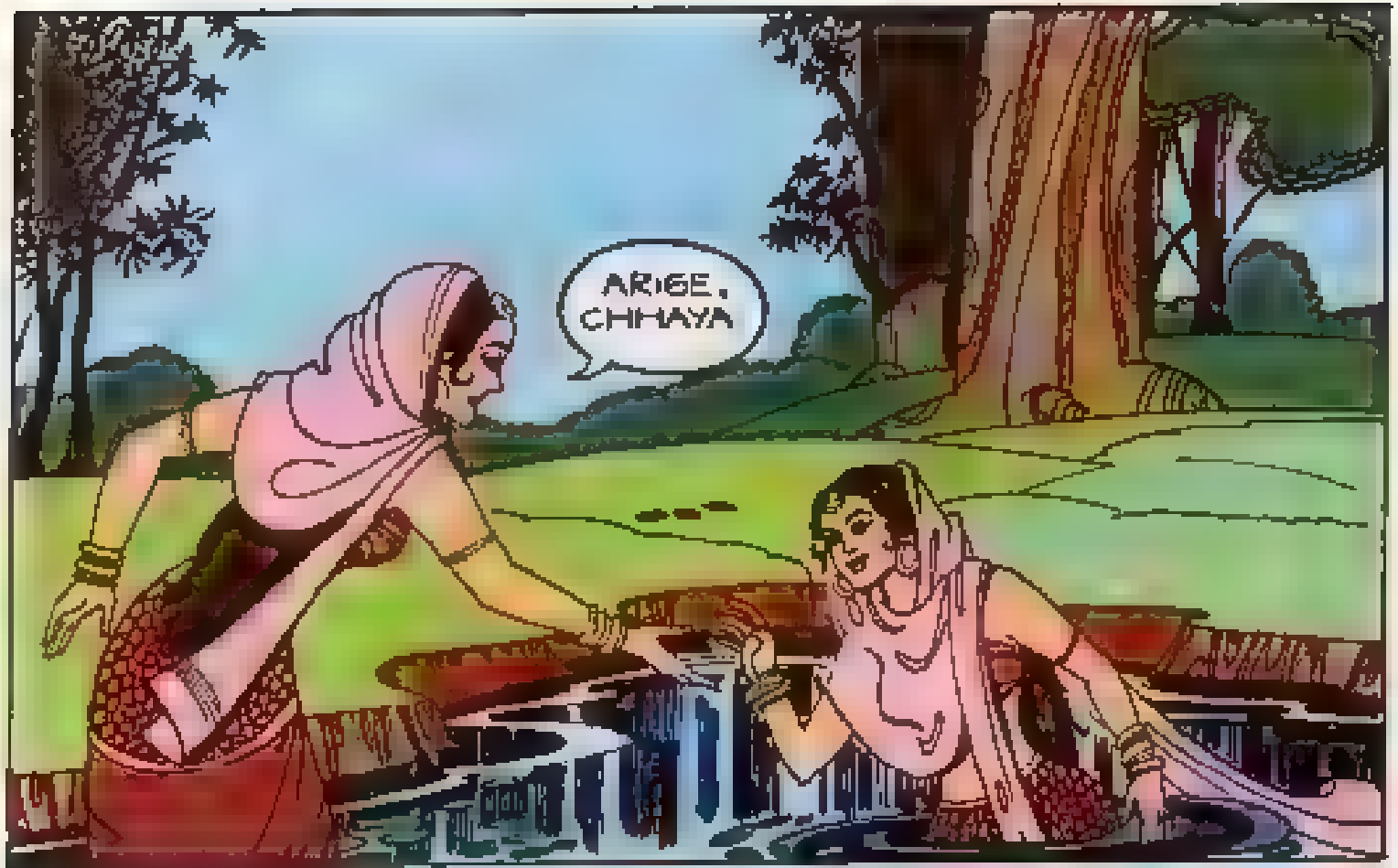


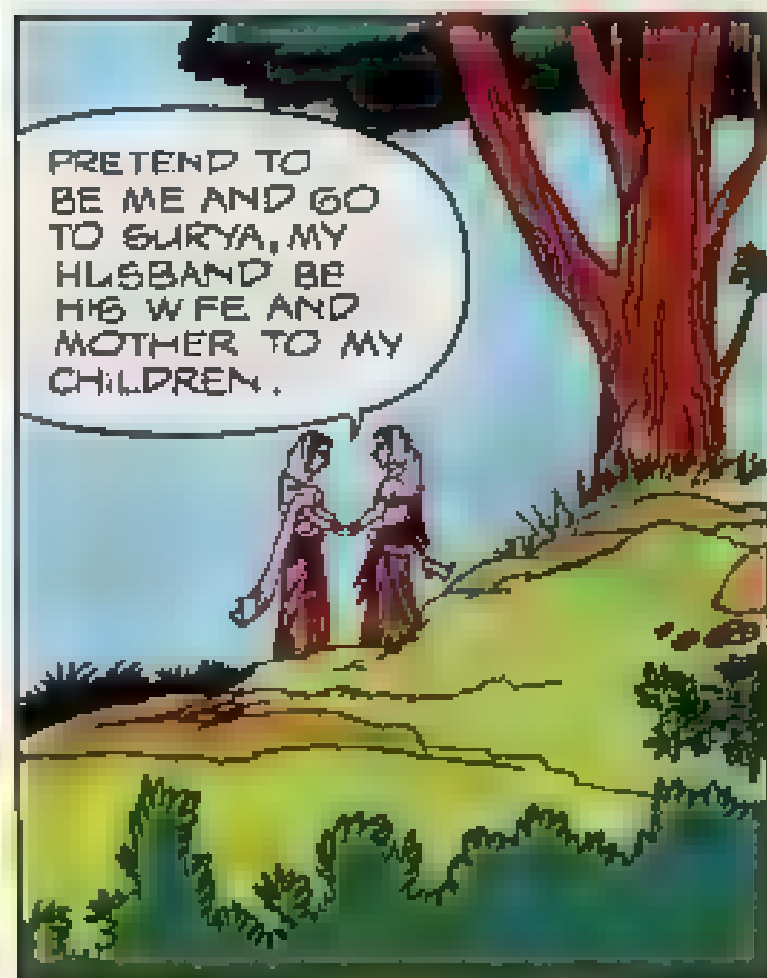
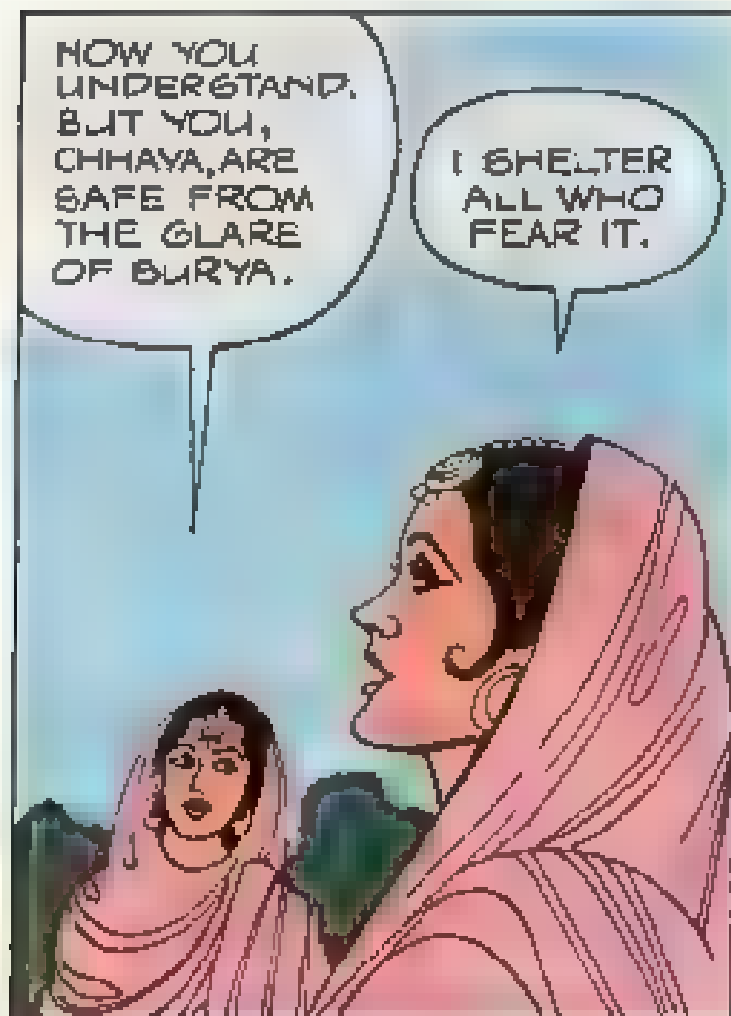
I MUST FLEE
AWAY...AWAY
FROM HIM!

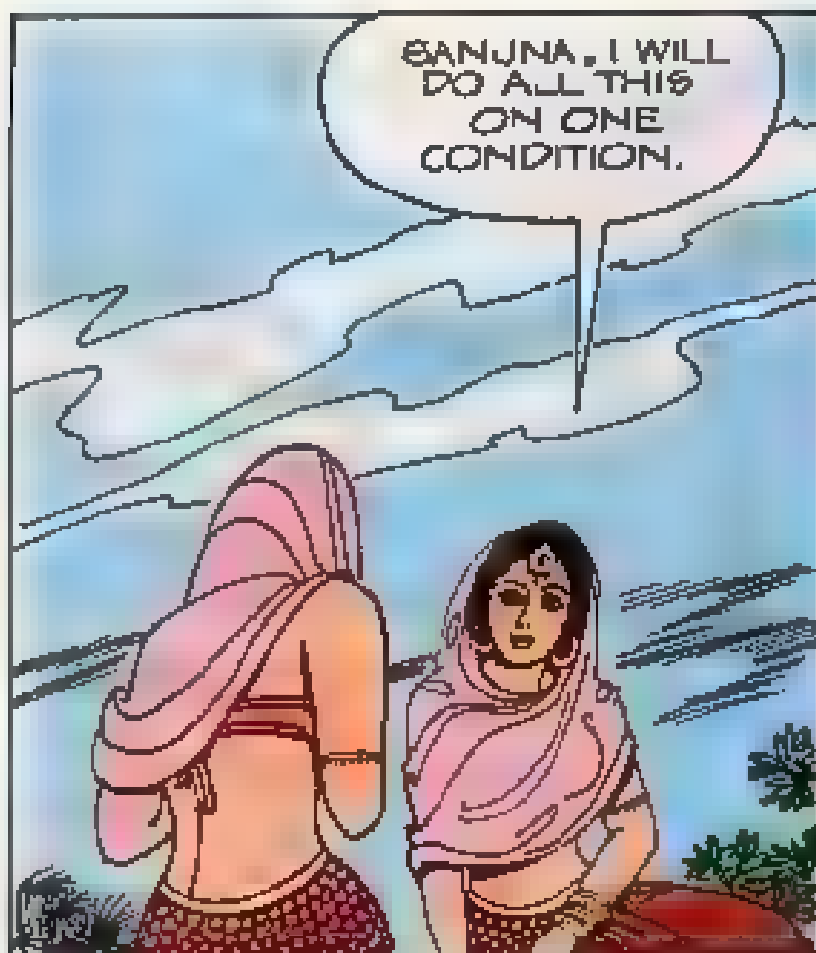


BUT WHO WILL CARE
FOR MY LORD? AND
MY CHILDREN? AH,
THERE LIES
CHHAYA, MY
SHADOW.







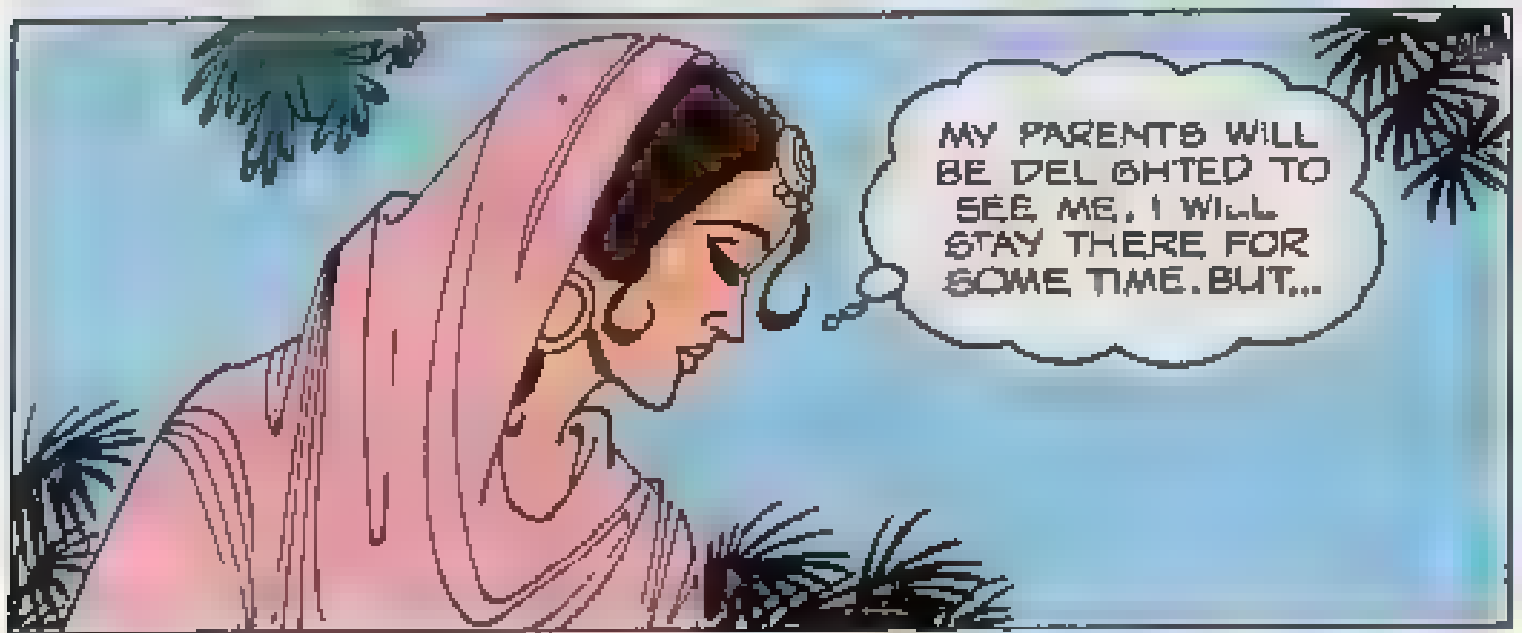


WHEN CHHAYA LEFT-

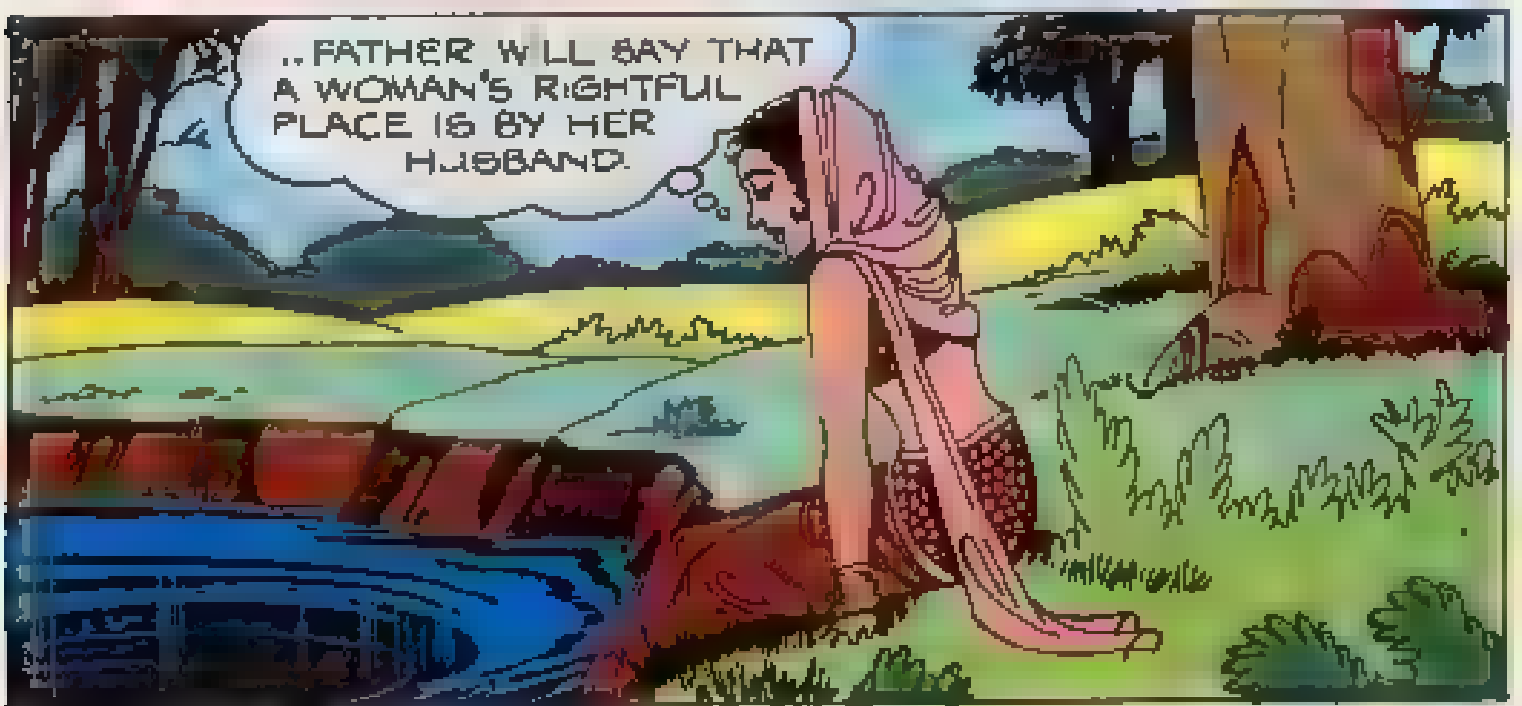
I SHALL GO
TO MY FATHER



MY PARENTS WILL
BE DELIGHTED TO
SEE ME. I WILL
STAY THERE FOR
SOME TIME. BUT...



.. FATHER WILL SAY THAT
A WOMAN'S RIGHTFUL
PLACE IS BY HER
HUSBAND.



SO SANJNA LEFT FOR
HER PARENT'S HOME.

WHEN FATHER
INSISTS THAT
I RETURN TO
MY HUSBAND,
I WILL GO INTO
THE FOREST.

VISHWAKARMA THOUGHT THAT HIS
DAUGHTER HAD COME ON A VISIT.

WELCOME
MY
DAUGHTER.
IS ALL
WELL WITH
YOU?

NO, FATHER! YOU
WERE RIGHT.
I COULD NOT BEAR
THE BRILLIANCE
OF SURYA
IN SUMMER

SANJNA SPENT A FEW HAPPY DAYS THERE.

THEN ONE DAY--

SANJNA,
YOU HAVE
PLEASED
ME BY
YOUR VISIT.
BUT...

...IT IS NOT PROPER
FOR A MARRIED
GIRL TO STAY IN
HER PARENTS' HOME
FOR TOO LONG.

GO NOW TO YOUR
HUSBAND. BUT COME
AGAIN TO SEE ME

I DOTE ON YOU, BUT
A WOMAN'S PLACE
IS BY HER HUSBAND.

AS I HAD
FORESEEN.

SO SANJANA LEFT HER PARENTS' HOME
AND WENT INTO THE FOREST.

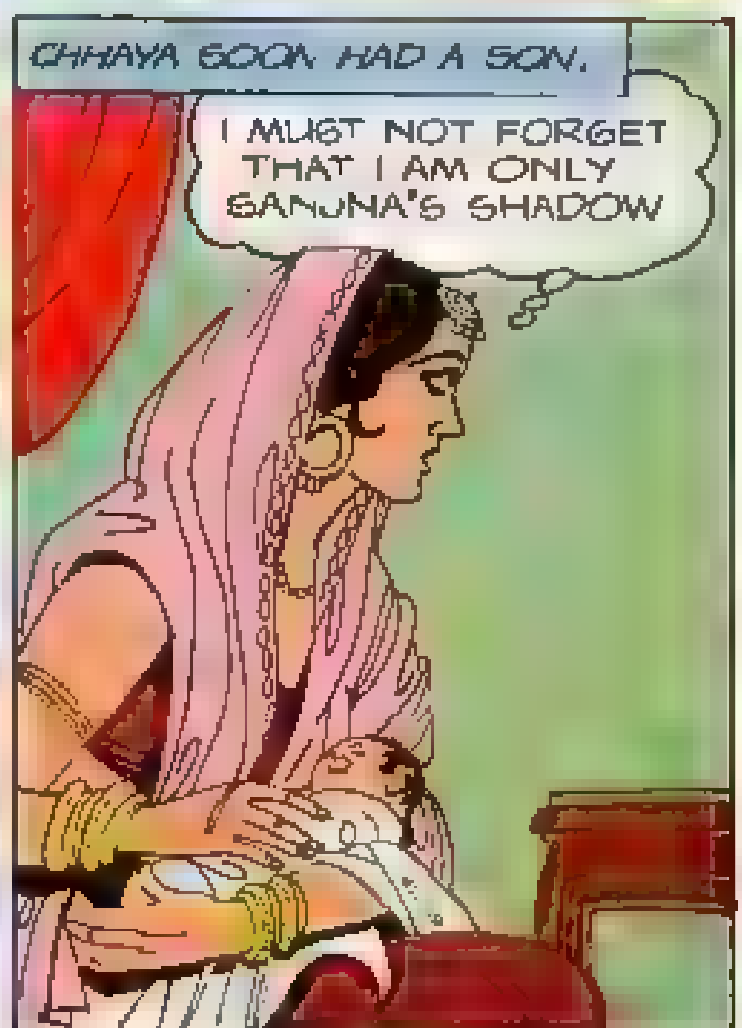
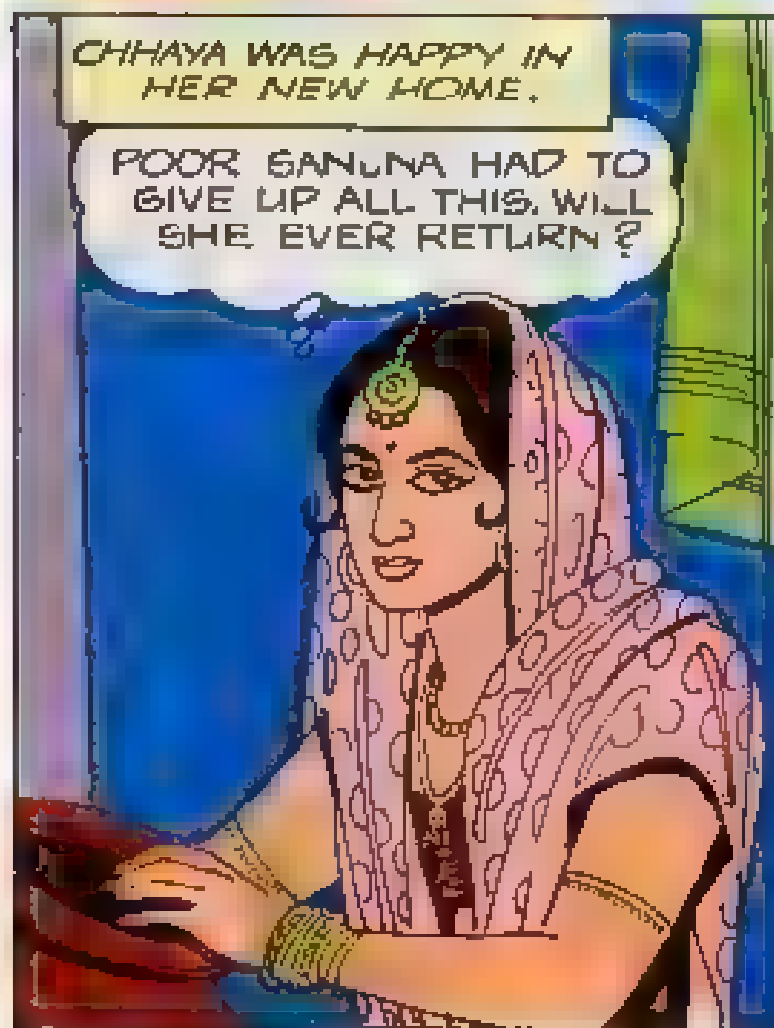
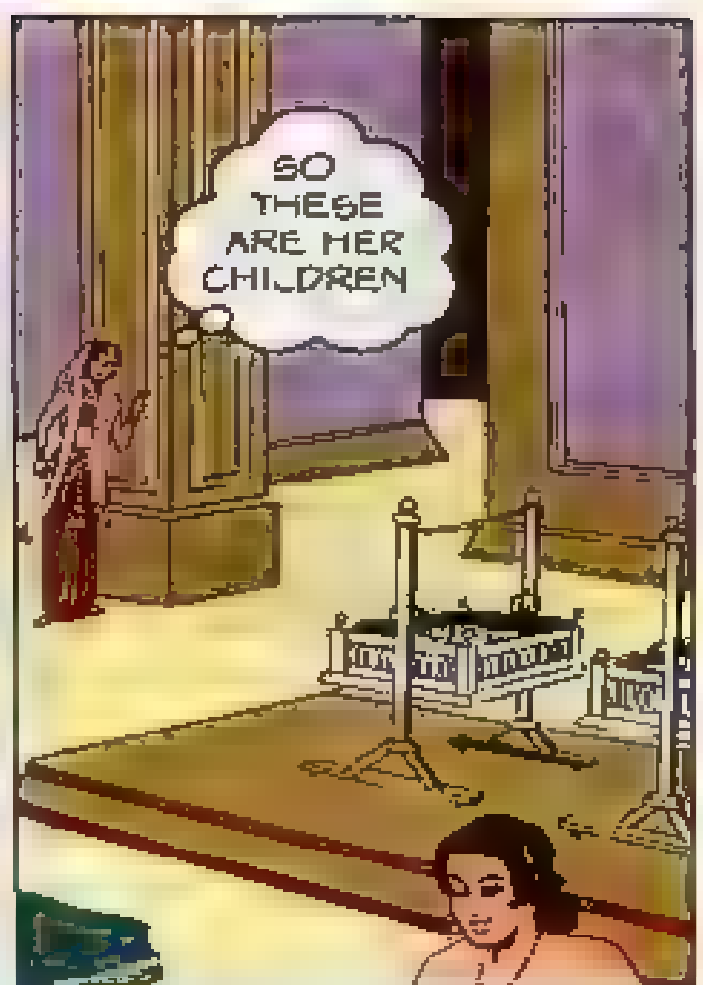
I CANNOT FACE SURYA.
I WILL TURN
MYSELF INTO A MARE.
THEN NO ONE
WILL FIND ME.

NOW I SHALL DO
PENANCE TO
REDUCE THE
STRENGTH OF
SURYA'S GLARE.

MEANWHILE CHHAYA
HAD REACHED SURYA'S
ABODE AND HAD
TAKEN SANJANA'S
PLACE.

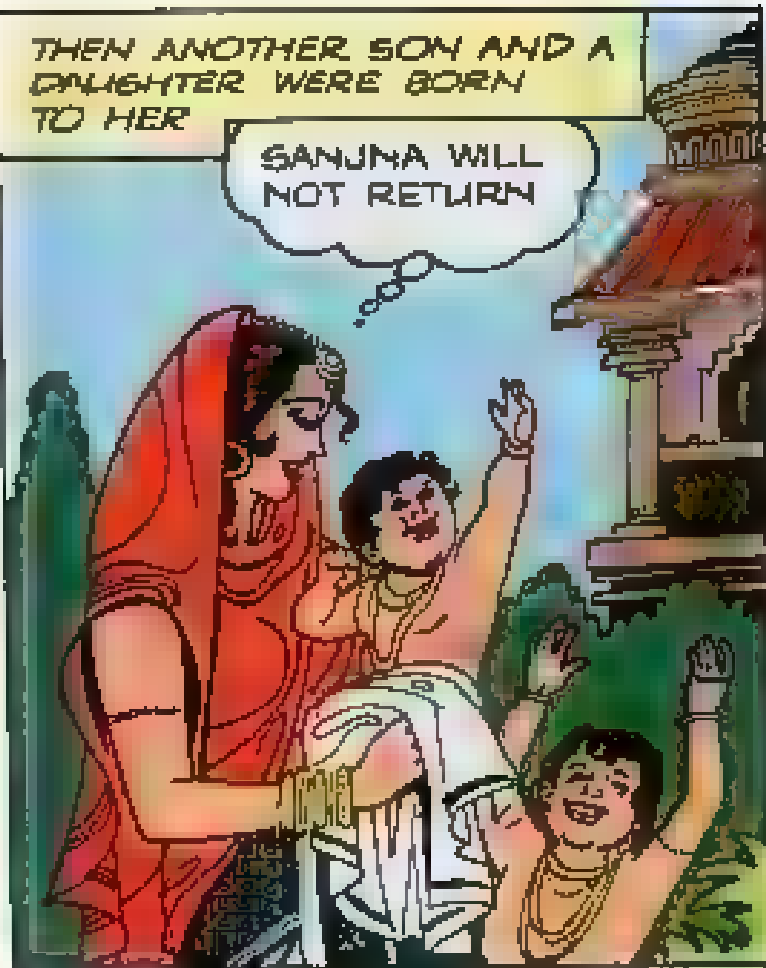
YOU HAVE
COME
BACK
TO ME!

MY LORD, FORGIVE
ME. I HAVE
OVERCOME MY
WEAKNESS.

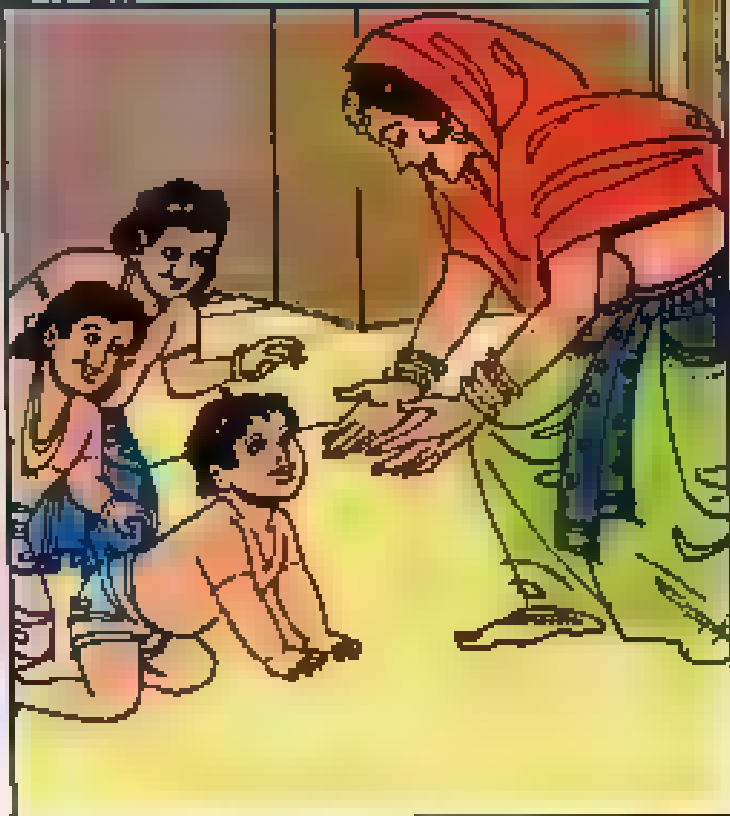


THEN ANOTHER SON AND A DAUGHTER WERE BORN TO HER

SANJANA WILL NOT RETURN

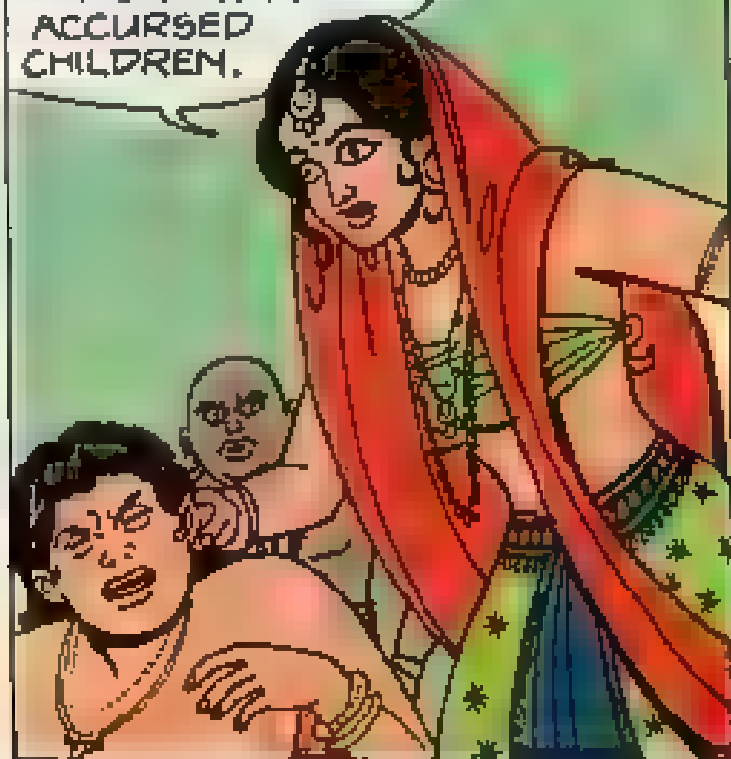


CHHAYA LOVED HER CHILDREN AND SPENT MOST OF HER TIME CARING FOR THEM

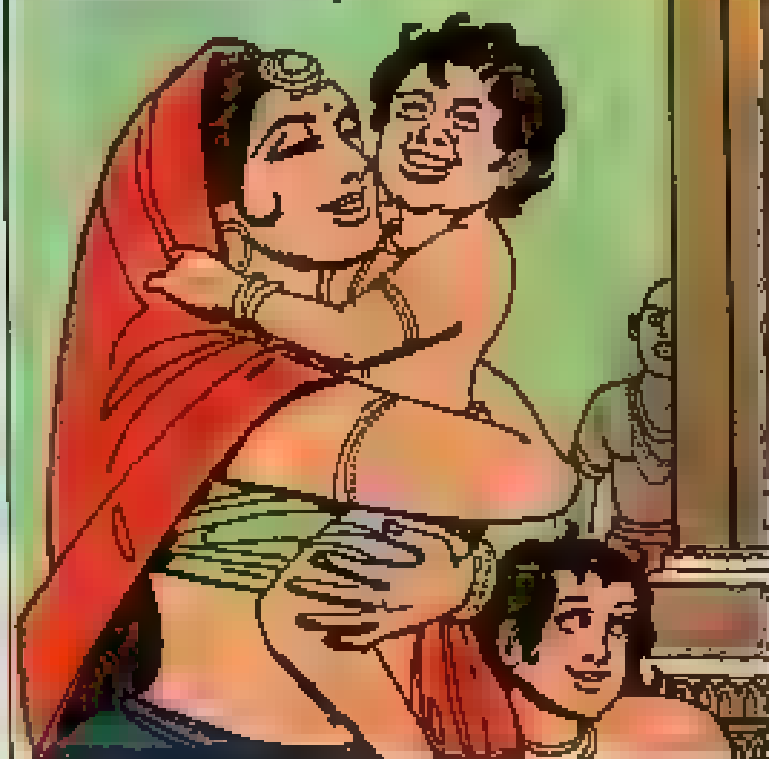


BUT ALAS! SHE DID NOT CARE FOR SANJANA'S CHILDREN IN THE SAME MANNER.

GET AWAY FROM MY SIGHT, YOU ACCURSED CHILDREN.

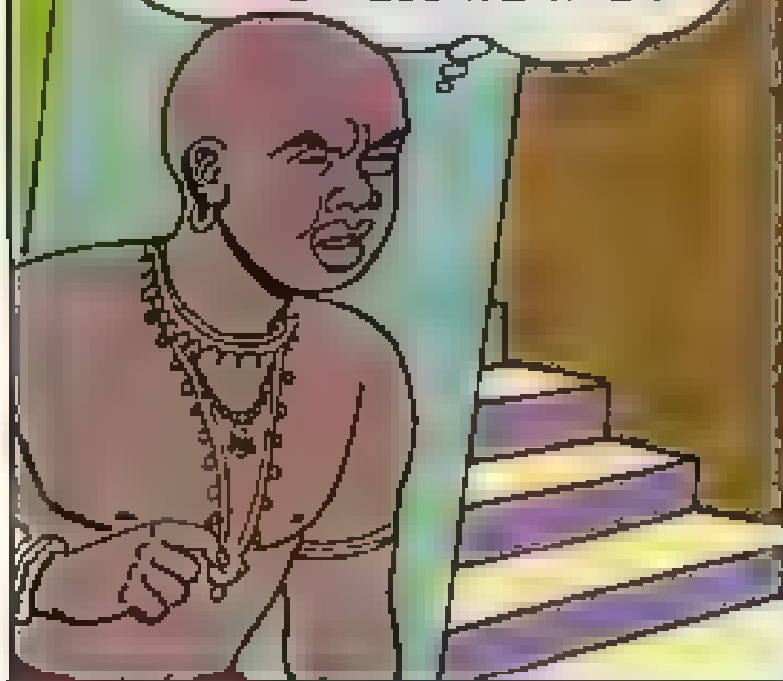


COME, MY DEAR ONE. LET US GO TO YOUR FATHER.



MANU FORGAVE HER FOR THIS
BUT YAMA COULD NOT.

THERE SHE IS ! NOW CRUEL
TO YAMUNA, MOTHER,
WHAT HAVE WE DONE
TO DESERVE THIS ?

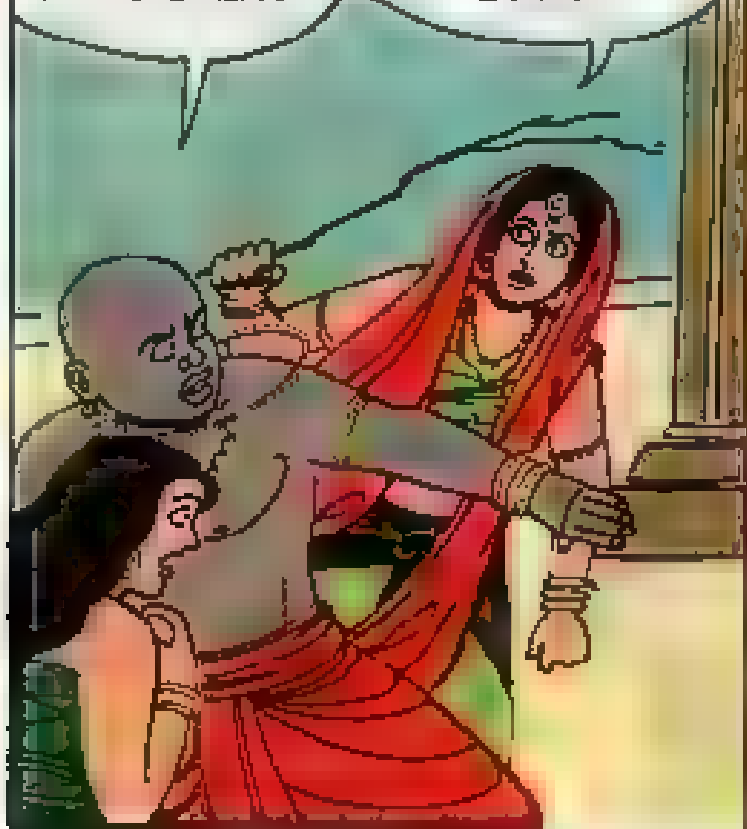


HOW
I WISH
I WERE
MOTHERLESS.



STOP
YOU SHALL
NOT TOUCH
MY SISTER.

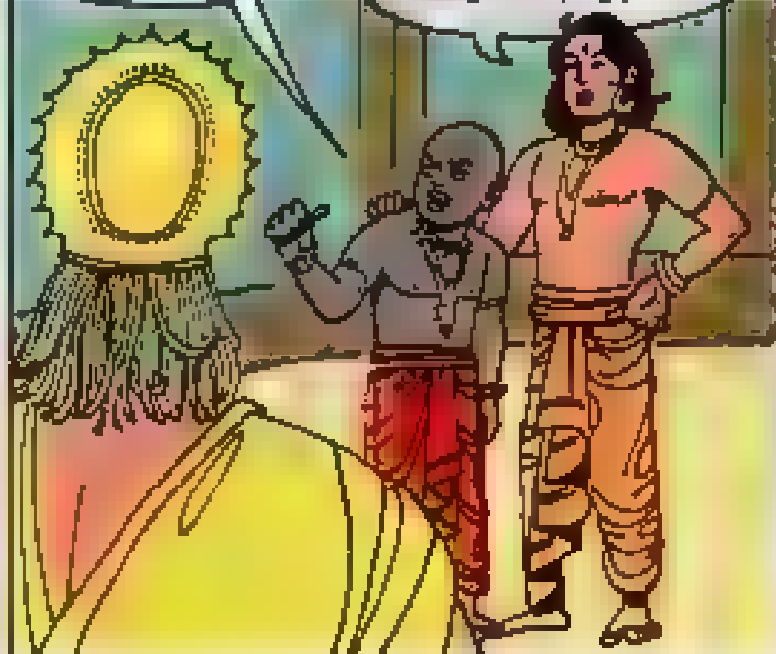
INSOLENT BOY!
MAY YOUR
FOOT FALL
OFF!

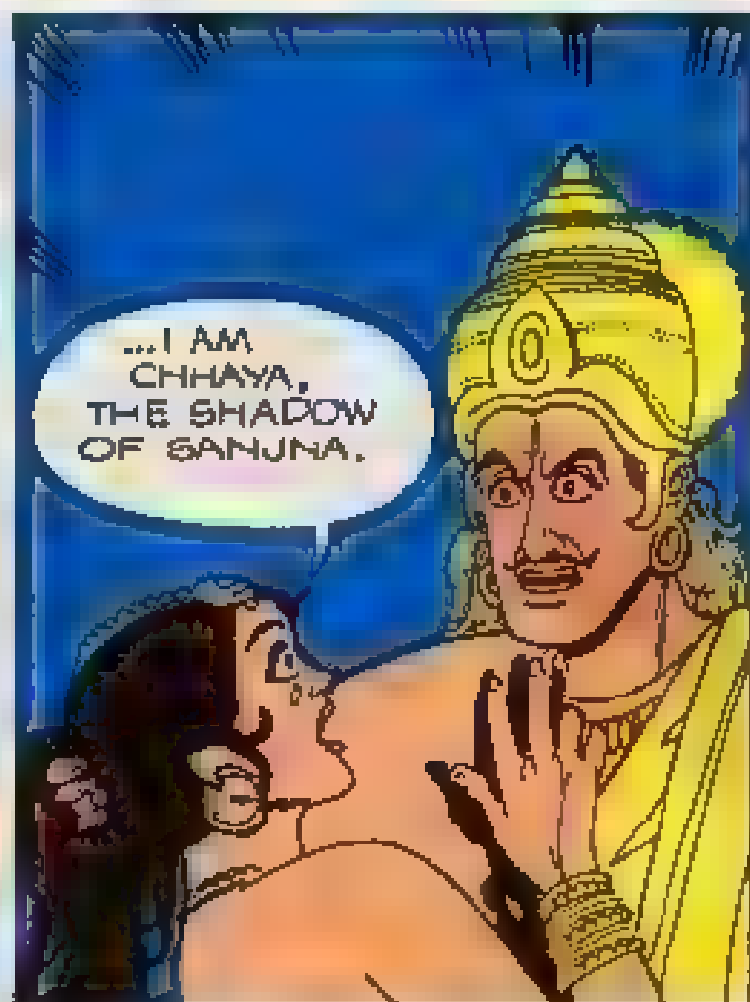
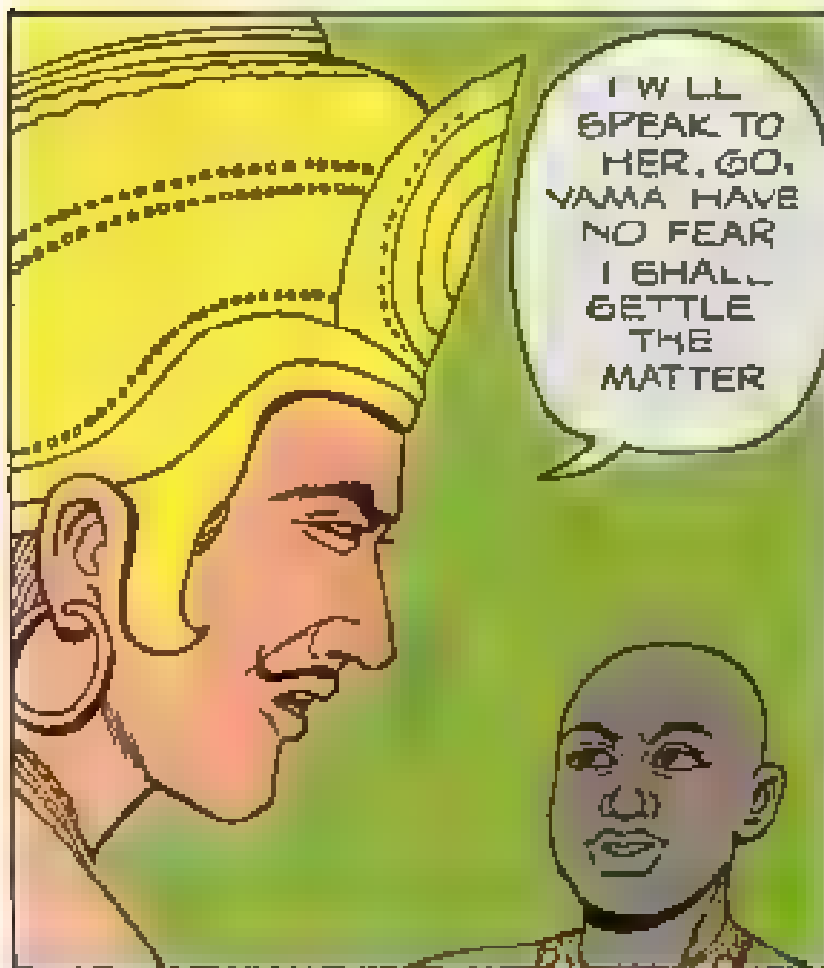


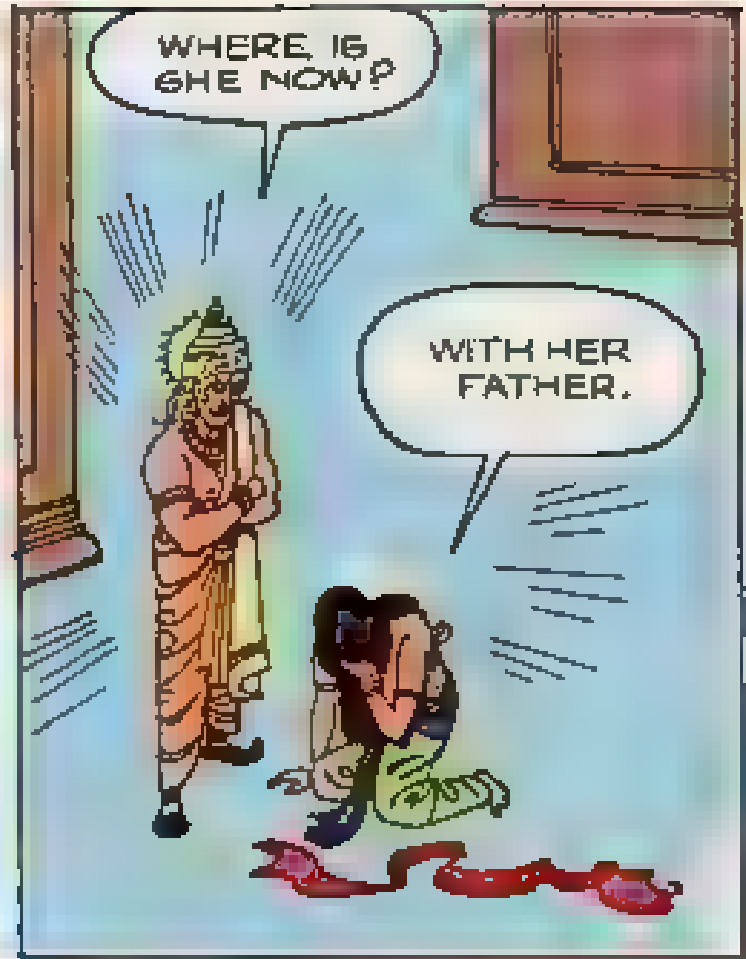
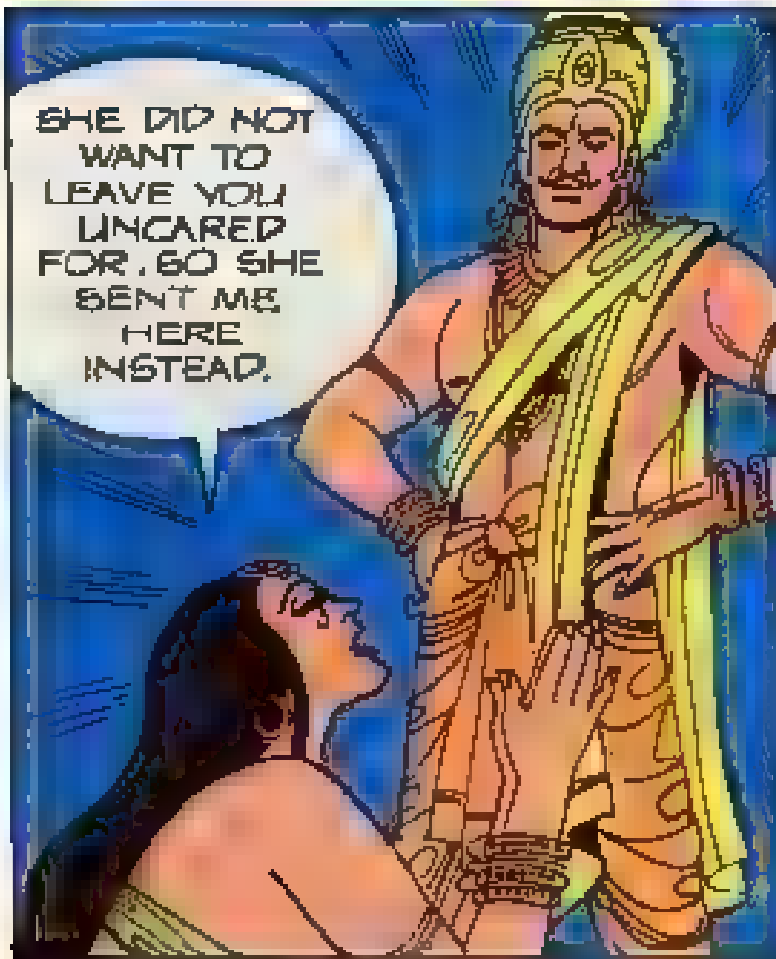
YAMA DECIDED TO SPEAK OUT TO
HIS FATHER. AFTER HE HAD
FINISHED -

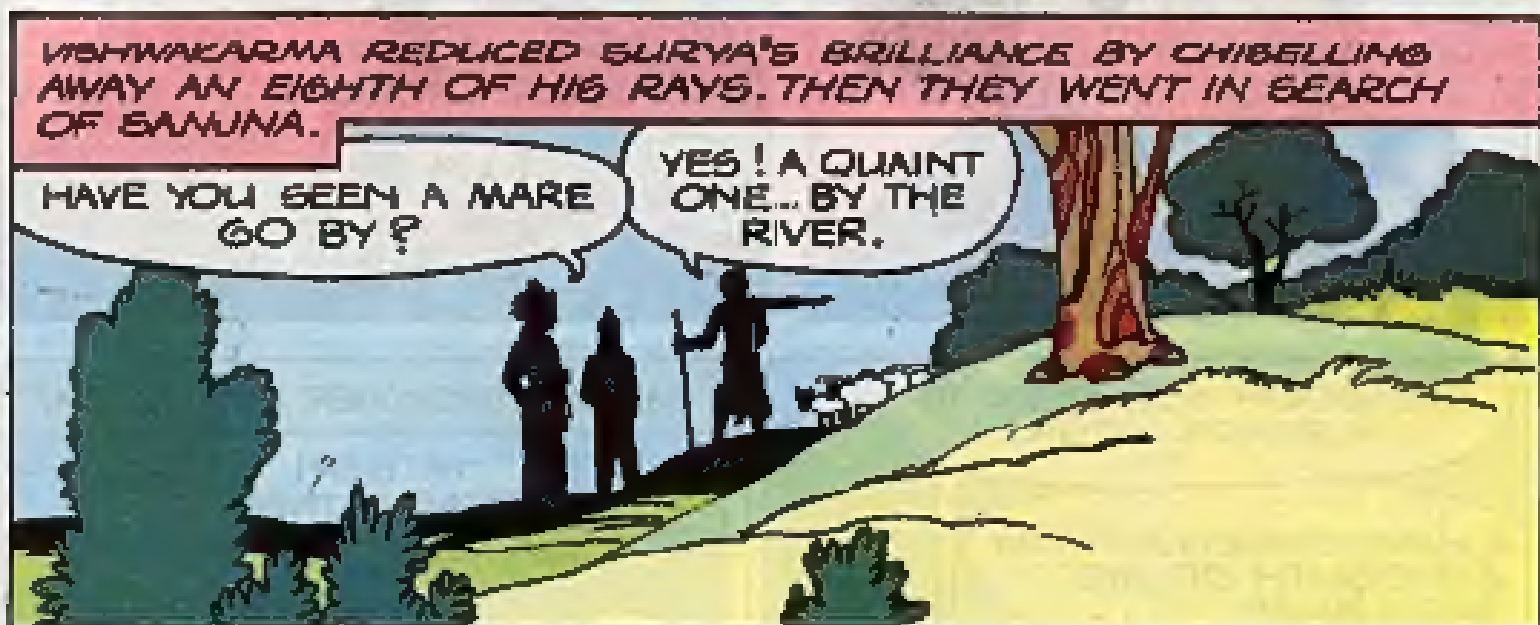
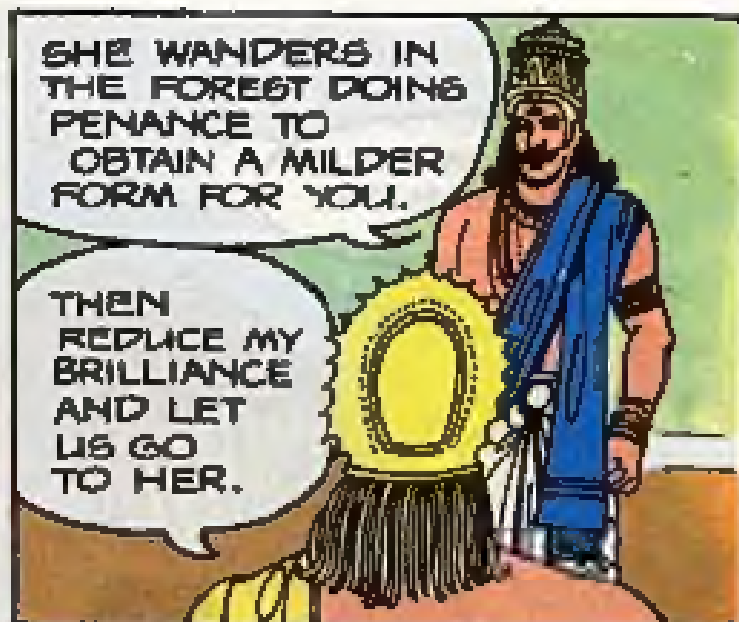
FATHER, THAT
WOMAN IS
NOT OUR
MOTHER!

I AGREE. A SON
MAY CHANGE IN
HIS AFFECTIONS
BUT A MOTHER
NEVER CEASES
TO CARE.











SURYA WENT UP TO THE MARE.

SANJANA!
I AM SURYA,
YOUR
HUSBAND.
PLEASE
TAKE YOUR
OWN FORM.

NOT UNTIL
I HAVE
OBTAINED THE
BOON I SEEK.



SANJANA TOOK HER OWN FORM.

FATHER!
DEAR FATHER!







Illustrated Classics From India

Surya

In the Puranas, there are distinct and different scales in the hierarchy of deities. At the highest end of the spectrum is the Divine Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshwara. Surya occupies a much lower position.

In the Vedas, Surya holds an eminent rank. He is one of the trinity of Gods – Agni, Vayu and Surya and is next in importance only to Indra. Gayatri, the most sacred verse of the Rig Veda, which is repeated every day by devout Hindus, is addressed to Surya. The verse invokes him to confer his splendour on and stimulate the intellect of the worshipper.

Surya's character as a luminary was always present in the minds of the Rig Vedic poets. He is said to diffuse golden splendour. He rides in a golden chariot drawn by seven swift horses. Manu, the law-giver, Yama, the God of Death and the River Yamuna are some of his many children.

The story as narrated in this book is based on the Markandeya Purana. How Surya was tricked into having two wives and how he ultimately lost his unbearably fierce brilliance, is the theme of the story.

Editor: Anant Pai

Script: Mayah Balse Illustrations: Ram Waerker Cover: Ram Waerker

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